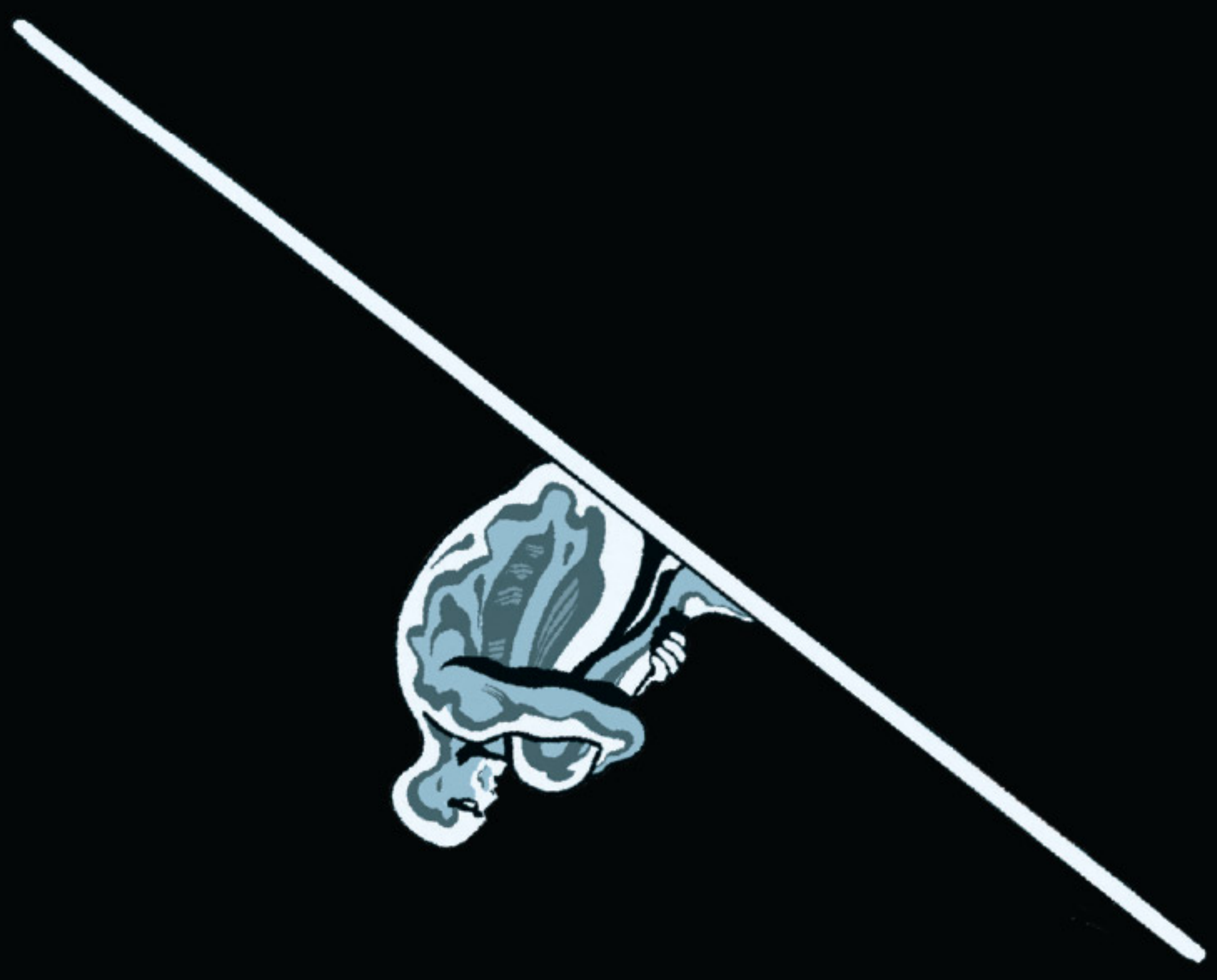
MARVEL

DONNY CATES
TRADD MOORE
DAVE STEWART

# SILVER SURFER BLACK



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# SILVER SURFER
# BLACK

**DONNY CATES**
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**TRADD MOORE**
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**VC's CLAYTON COWLES**
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**FELIPE SOBREIRO** (#3–5)
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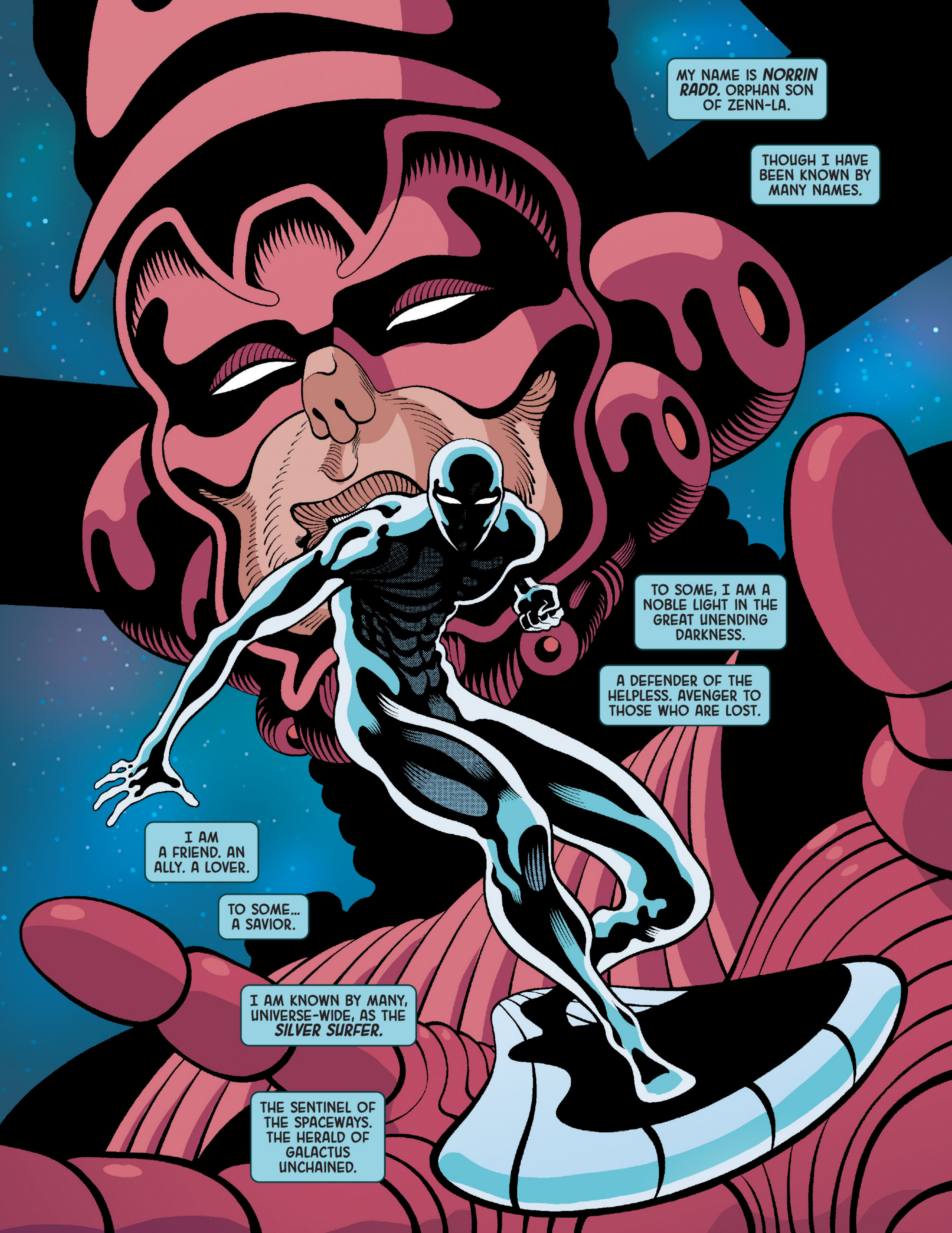
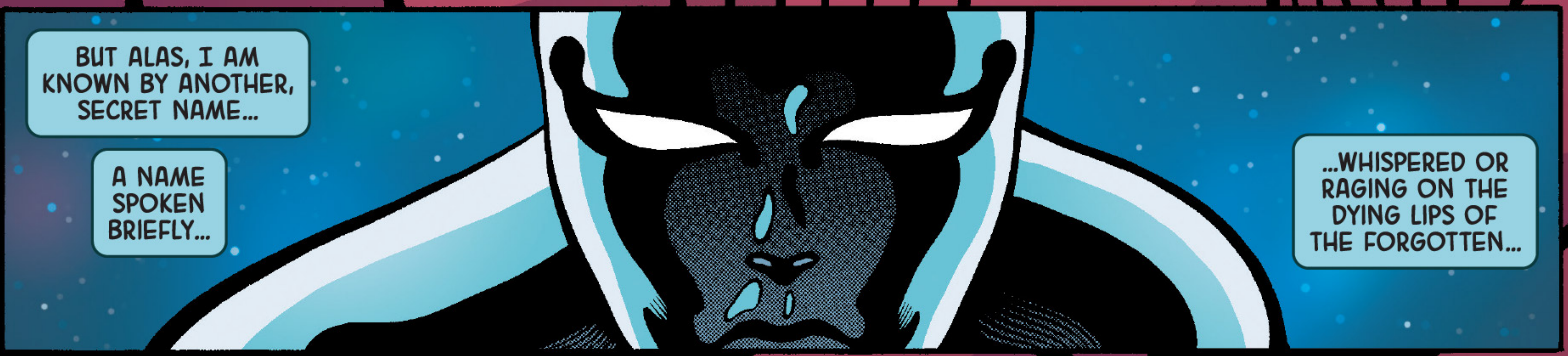
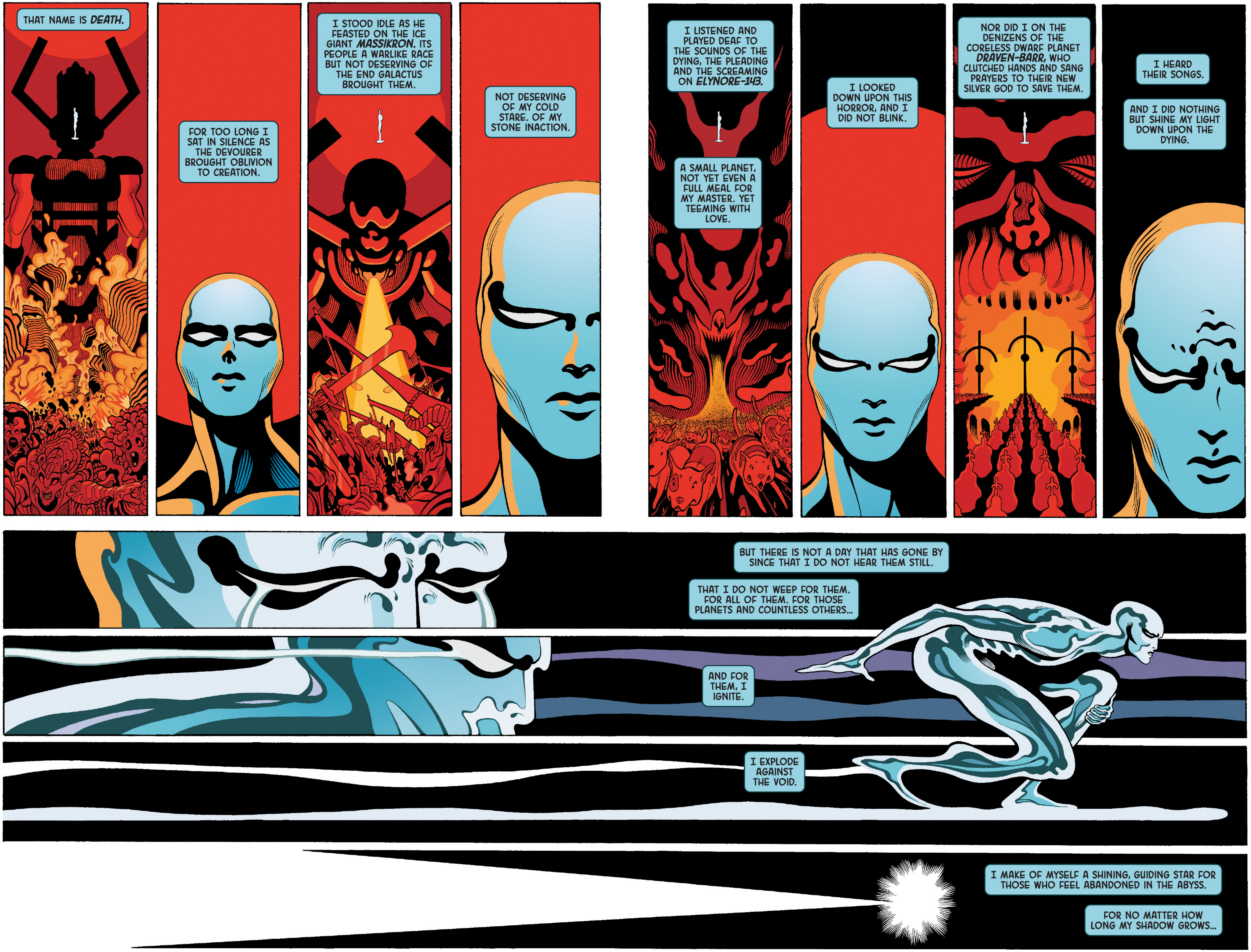
**SILVER SURFER** CREATED BY **STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY**

# ONE


MY NAME IS **NORRIN RADD.** ORPHAN SON OF ZENN-LA.
THOUGH I HAVE BEEN KNOWN BY MANY NAMES.
TO SOME, I AM A NOBLE LIGHT IN THE GREAT UNENDING DARKNESS.
A DEFENDER OF THE HELPLESS. AVENGER TO THOSE WHO ARE LOST.
I AM A FRIEND. AN ALLY. A LOVER.
TO SOME... A SAVIOR.
I AM KNOWN BY MANY, UNIVERSE-WIDE, AS THE ***SILVER SURFER.***
THE SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS. THE HERALD OF GALACTUS UNCHAINED.


BUT ALAS, I AM KNOWN BY ANOTHER, SECRET NAME...
A NAME SPOKEN BRIEFLY...
...WHISPERED OR RAGING ON THE DYING LIPS OF THE FORGOTTEN...


THAT NAME IS *DEATH.*
FOR TOO LONG I SAT IN SILENCE AS THE DEVOURER BROUGHT OBLIVION TO CREATION.
I STOOD IDLE AS HE FEASTED ON THE ICE GIANT ***MASSIKRON.*** ITS PEOPLE A WARLIKE RACE BUT NOT DESERVING OF THE END GALACTUS BROUGHT THEM.
NOT DESERVING OF MY COLD STARE. OF MY STONE INACTION.
I LISTENED AND PLAYED DEAF TO THE SOUNDS OF THE DYING, THE PLEADING AND THE SCREAMING ON ***ELYNORE-143.***
A SMALL PLANET, NOT YET EVEN A FULL MEAL FOR MY MASTER. YET TEEMING WITH LOVE.
I LOOKED DOWN UPON THIS HORROR, AND I DID NOT BLINK.
NOR DID I ON THE DENIZENS OF THE CORELESS DWARF PLANET ***DRAVEN-BARR,*** WHO CLUTCHED HANDS AND SANG PRAYERS TO THEIR NEW SILVER GOD TO SAVE THEM.
I HEARD THEIR SONGS.
AND I DID NOTHING BUT SHINE MY LIGHT DOWN UPON THE DYING.
BUT THERE IS NOT A DAY THAT HAS GONE BY SINCE THAT I DO NOT HEAR THEM STILL.
THAT I DO NOT WEEP FOR THEM. FOR ALL OF THEM. FOR THOSE PLANETS AND COUNTLESS OTHERS...
AND FOR THEM, I IGNITE.
I EXPLODE AGAINST THE VOID.
I MAKE OF MYSELF A SHINING, GUIDING STAR FOR THOSE WHO FEEL ABANDONED IN THE ABYSS.
FOR NO MATTER HOW LONG MY SHADOW GROWS...

NOW.
...I WILL NOT BE DEVOURED BY THE BLACK.

THANOS HAS DIED. FELLED BY HIS ASSASSIN PROGENY. I WAS CALLED TO THE READING OF HIS LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.
THE BLACK ORDER AMBUSHED US. FIRED US INTO THIS DIMENSIONAL RIFT AND ABSCONDED WITH THE MAD TITAN'S CORPSE.
BETA RAY BILL, LISTEN TO ME! SUMMON YOUR STRENGTH!
THE CULL OBSIDIAN'S PLANS FOR THE BODY OF THE DESTROYER ARE NOW BEYOND MY REACH. WHAT HAS BEEN DONE IS DONE.
SUMMON STORMBREAKER!
NOW!
WHAT I CAN DO NOW IS *SURVIVE.*
AND PILOT THIS TACHYONIC MAELSTROM TO SAVE MY ALLIES.

PERHAPS, THROUGH THEM...
RAGHHH!
...THE GALAXY WILL NOT GO UNGUARDED IN MY ABSENCE.*
*FOLLOW THE ADVENTURES OF BETA RAY BILL AND HIS COSMIC FRIENDS IN GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY! --DS
I FORCE MY BODY TO THROTTLE THROUGH THE STORM. MY MIND THREATENS TO UNLACE.
TIME SH-SHATTERS. HETEROMORPHIC LIGHT GLITTERS IN THE BEDLAM. GROTESQUE AND BEAUTIFUL AND SICK AGAIN.
STRANDS OF REALITY EX-EXPLODE INTO FICTIONAL DEBRIS.
I AM UNMADE.
BUT I AM NOT DONE.

I CANNOT SAVE THEM. IN TRUTH, THESE HEROES SHOULD ALREADY BE DEAD.
AND YET, FOR THE MOMENT, THEY LIVE.
AND SO THEY FALL TO ME.
I SUMMON IT. MY *POWER COSMIC.*
I REACH OUT IN MY MIND AND GRASP THE SHAPE OF THE VORTEX.
I FEEL ITS BREADTH. I FIND WHERE IT EBBS. WHERE IT TURNS.
AND IN THOSE TURNS...
...I FIND WHERE IT IS *WEAK.*

ATOMS CAUTERIZE IN SPACE-TIME.
HNNG!
THE FABRIC TEARS.
GRAAAHHH!
THE *ASSEMBLED STAR CHAMPIONS* FALL THROUGH THE BREACH.
THEY WILL LIVE...
...BUT WHERE THEIR JOURNEY WILL TAKE THEM...
...I KNOW NOT.*
MY MISSION COMPLETE...
...I SURRENDER.
*FIND OUT WHERE THEIR JOURNEY TAKES THEM IN THE *GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY ANNUAL #1!* --DS

AND FINALLY, I GASP.
MY LUNGS FILL WITH NOTHING.
CELESTIAL TIDES CRASH UPON ME, STARLESS AND INFINITE.
AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN, I AM BROKEN BY THE ABYSS.
EXHAUSTED, I AM HELPLESS AGAINST THE BEATING OF THESE WAVES.
I AM TAKEN UNDER.
AND IN THE DARKNESS...
...I SUCCUMB.
I DROWN.
AND I AM LOST.

YEARS.
I FALL.
FOR YEARS.
SLOWLY, I HEAL.
MY COSMIC AWARENESS SPREADS. I SEARCH FOR SIGNS OF LIFE IN THESE PRIMORDIAL WASTELANDS...
FOR... HELP...
I FIND...
...STARS...FLICKERING IN THE DARKNESS.
ON AND OFF, A THOUSAND TIMES AGAIN.
I SEE THEM BORN. BRIGHT AND RAGING, AND THEN...
...DEAD.

IN THE DISTANCE, I FIND THE SOURCE.
SOMETHING HERE IS KILLING IN THE DARK.
I WILL NOT ALLOW IT.
I SUMMON WHAT LITTLE POWER I HAVE LEFT TO MANIFEST MY BOARD.
THE PLANET IS EONS AWAY.
A TRAVELER OF ANY OTHER MEANS WOULD BE BORN, LIVE AND DIE A HUNDRED GENERATIONS BEFORE SEEING ITS SURFACE.
SWIFTLY. PLEASE.
I AM NOT SUCH A TRAVELER.

THIS PLANET. IT CHILLS ME.
BOOM
IT IS TWISTED-- ANTILIFE, THIS PLACE. ITS PULSE IS FAINT. BURIED.
IT REEKS OF ROT, DECAY...
PLEASE...
I AM... I AM CALLED THE SILVER SURFER. I HAVE COME TO YOU IN PEACE AND IN NEED OF...
...AND METAL.
...HELP.

I MEAN YOU NO HARM.
HAVE YOU A MASTER?
THAT LANGUAGE...
*"OUR MASTER IS GOD."* IS THAT RIGHT?
PLEASE, TELL ME. WHAT GOD DO YOU--
KRAKOOM
*NGGHH!*
VERY WELL, THEN.

THOUGH WEAKENED...
...I AM FAR FROM HELPLESS.
GAH!
THOUGH OUTNUMBERED...
...I AM UNAFRAID.
AND THOUGH FAR FROM HOME...
...WITHOUT A SOUL IN THE UNIVERSE TO COME TO MY AID...
BOARD, HEAR ME...
...TO THEM!
...I NEVER BATTLE ALONE...

GAH!
BWAAAP
BOOM
RAGE WELLS UP IN MY THROAT.
I SWALLOW IT.
I FIGHT ONLY TO END THE FIGHTING.
PLEASE... WE NEEDN'T GO ON LIKE THIS.
AAGH!
THE PLANET... SWELLING UP AROUND ME... WHAT IS--
MY ENEMY CONTROLS THE LAND.
SUFFOCATING ME IN ITS GRIP.
MY BOARD TORN IN TWO.
THEY THINK ME BEATEN.

BUT I AM MORE THAN THIS BODY.
I REACH OUT...
...AND MY BOARD...
...IS A RAZOR ON THE WIND.
AND I...
ENOUGH!
...I AM UNFURLED.
SENTRIES.
I MEAN YOU NO HARM.
BUT HEAR ME.
THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE.
YIELD.

NO!
TRAPPED. THE URGE...THE URGE TO END THEM RISES YET AGAIN.
UGH! N-NO...
BUT NO...
I AM NOT DEATH.
I AM A BLAZING LIGHT IN THE ABYSS--
--AND THOUGH DROWNING IN SHADOWS--
--OVERWHELMED AND SUFFOCATED BY THE DARK--
--I IGNITE.
I SHINE.

I *BURN.*
THE INFANT STAR I HAVE BIRTHED INTO BEING FROM MY POWER COSMIC FLOATS INTO THE HEAVENS TO BRING LIGHT BACK TO THIS WORLD.
FROM DARKNESS, LIGHT...
WITH LIGHT...
...A PRICE.

THE SENTRIES OF THIS PLACE LIE SLEEPING.
REVEALED IN THE BRIGHT TO BE ALIEN GODDESSES OF SOME ABANDONED PANTHEON.
NO MORE HOME TO THIS REALM THAN I, THEY NOW SERVE AS WARNINGS...
...OF WHAT LIES AHEAD.
WHAT DWELLS BEYOND THIS GATE HAS THE POWER TO ENSLAVE GODS.
TO UNMAKE THE STARS IN THE SKY.
A LONG-FORGOTTEN VOICE IN THE BACK OF MY MIND SCREAMS AS I AM TAKEN BY THE BLACK...
AGH!
HELLO, LITTLE SUN.
"CAREFUL, TRAVELER..." IT BELLOWS...
WELL MET.

"HERE THERE BE DRAGONS..."
I AM KNULL.
YOU MAY CALL ME GOD.

**MIKE ZECK & MORRY HOLLOWELL**

#1 HIDDEN GEM VARIANT

# TWO

I HAVE SEEN SUCH WONDROUSLY HORRIBLE THINGS.
SO OFTEN THAT THEIR MEMORIES HAVE BECOME HAUNTINGLY COMMON.
I RECALL ELYNORE-143'S VOLCANIC LAYERS GLITTERING INTO BEAUTIFUL, IRIDESCENT BLOOMS AS THEY DISSIPATED OUT INTO THE VACUUM.
I CAN STILL CLOSE MY EYES AND HEAR THE RUMBLING OF MASSIKRON'S BLOODSHED TURBINES.
HOW THEY KEPT SPINNING, CHURNING AND SPEWING WAR, LONG AFTER THE PLANET CAME LOOSE AND EMPTY IN THE DESTROYER'S HANDS.
WORLD UPON WORLD. CIVILIZATION AFTER CIVILIZATION.
I HAVE SEEN SUCH WONDROUSLY HORRIBLE THINGS.
AND I HAVE WITNESSED THE *KING IN BLACK.*
ONCE.
A LONG, LONG TIME AGO...

I WOULD HAVE MANY ENCOUNTERS WITH THE RACE KNOWN AS *SYMBIOTES* OVER THE YEARS.
THIS WAS MY FIRST.
I RECALL THE PLANET SEEMING TO HEAVE.
TO BREATHE AND SWELL IN TIME.
I HAD NEVER SEEN A PLANET SO ATTUNED.
AND THEN... UNDERNEATH IT, AT ITS CORE...
...SOMETHING ELSE.
SOMETHING DARK...
YOU ARE NOT A PLANET...
...ARE YOU?
IT SHOWED ME ITS TEETH.
IT TOLD ME I WAS UNWELCOME IN THIS PLACE.
*AH!*
CHO MP
AND THEN...IT SHOWED ME ITS SECRET.
THIS PLANET...

...THIS HIVE. THIS SWARM.
THIS HORDE.
IT WAS...
IT *IS*...
...A *CAGE.*
ALL AROUND ME, I FELT THEM.
HIS CHILDREN.
BILLIONS OF THEM. SHAKING IN RAGE. FOR HIM.
AND WRAPPED AROUND THAT RAGE...
DEEP. INSTINCTUAL. FEAR.
OF DEATH.
OF ME.
WHY?!
I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THEN WHY THIS BEAUTIFUL RACE BORE ME SUCH MALICE.
WHY... WHY DO YOU FEAR ME, LITTLE ONES?
I MEAN YOU NO HARM.
BUT I DO NOW. I DO NOW.
THEY FEAR ME...

NOW: THE DAWN OF TIME.
...BECAUSE BILLIONS OF YEARS AGO...
...I MADE THEIR HIDDEN GOD *BLEED.*

A PART OF ME I TRY TO QUELL BRIEFLY SHRIEKS IN THE SHADOWS.
HA! RUN ALL YOU LIKE, LITTLE LIGHT!
"THIS WOULD BE A FITTING END," IT SAYS.
I AM KNULL!
I AM THE GOD OF THE DARK.
"FOR A DESTROYER OF WORLDS...
DARKNESS IS THE BEGINNING. DARKNESS IS THE TRUTH.
"...TO BE DEVOURED BY ONE."
AGHH!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?

IT MEANS I AM THE GOD OF IT ALL.
LIGHT... FADING...
TOO... WEAK...
BREATHE US IN.
REST.
FLY, FLY, FLY AS FAST AS YOU CAN. AS FAST AS ANYTHING EVER HAS...FASTER THAN LIGHT.
AND WHEN YOU ARRIVE...
STAY WITH US.
GIVE IN.
NNN-NO!
...YOU WILL ALWAYS ARRIVE IN THE DARK.

WAITING. BREATHING. ENDLESS.
RAVENOUS...
THERE IS ONLY SURRENDER.
ONLY... REVERENCE.
YES...
...MY LORD.

AHHH, WELCOME, VOID KNIGHT. WE ARE JOINED. WE ARE ONE.
YOU...
...MY, YOU ARE SPECIAL, AREN'T YOU? I FEEL...GREAT DEATH IN YOUR HEART. YOU HAVE BROKEN THE BRIGHT BEFORE...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE?
THE LIGHT...
...IT DIES.
HERALD!
AAGH!
BRACE YOURSELF.
AGHHH!
WHAT IS THIS? WHAT IS--

THIS WILL HURT.
AND THEN THERE IS LIGHT.
AND SOUND.
AND *PAIN.*
AGHHHHHHH!
AND I AM FREE.

NO! YOU DARE?!
ALWAYS.
LISTEN TO ME, HERALD. YOU CANNOT DEFEAT HIM.
RAGH!
RUN! FOLLOW MY VOICE!
NO!!!
I BREAK AWAY.
PULLING AGAINST THE IMMENSE GRAVITY OF A PLANET GONE BLACK, MALIGNANT AND MAD.

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I BECAME WHAT I AM, I FEEL SOMETHING HORRID AND CRAWLING AT THE NAPE OF MY NECK.
IT TAKES ME A MOMENT TO PLACE THE SENSATION, BUT IN MY FEAR, I FIND IT...
...COLD.
I AM SO COLD.
MMMM...

HEH. VERY WELL, THEN. VERY WELL.
ON YOUR FEET, ACOLYTES.
THE HORIZON IS BURNING. MY KINGDOM SCREAMS.
I HAVE A STAR TO KILL.
NO, NO... STAY HERE. GUARD THE THRONE AND BE CALM, MY CHILDREN...

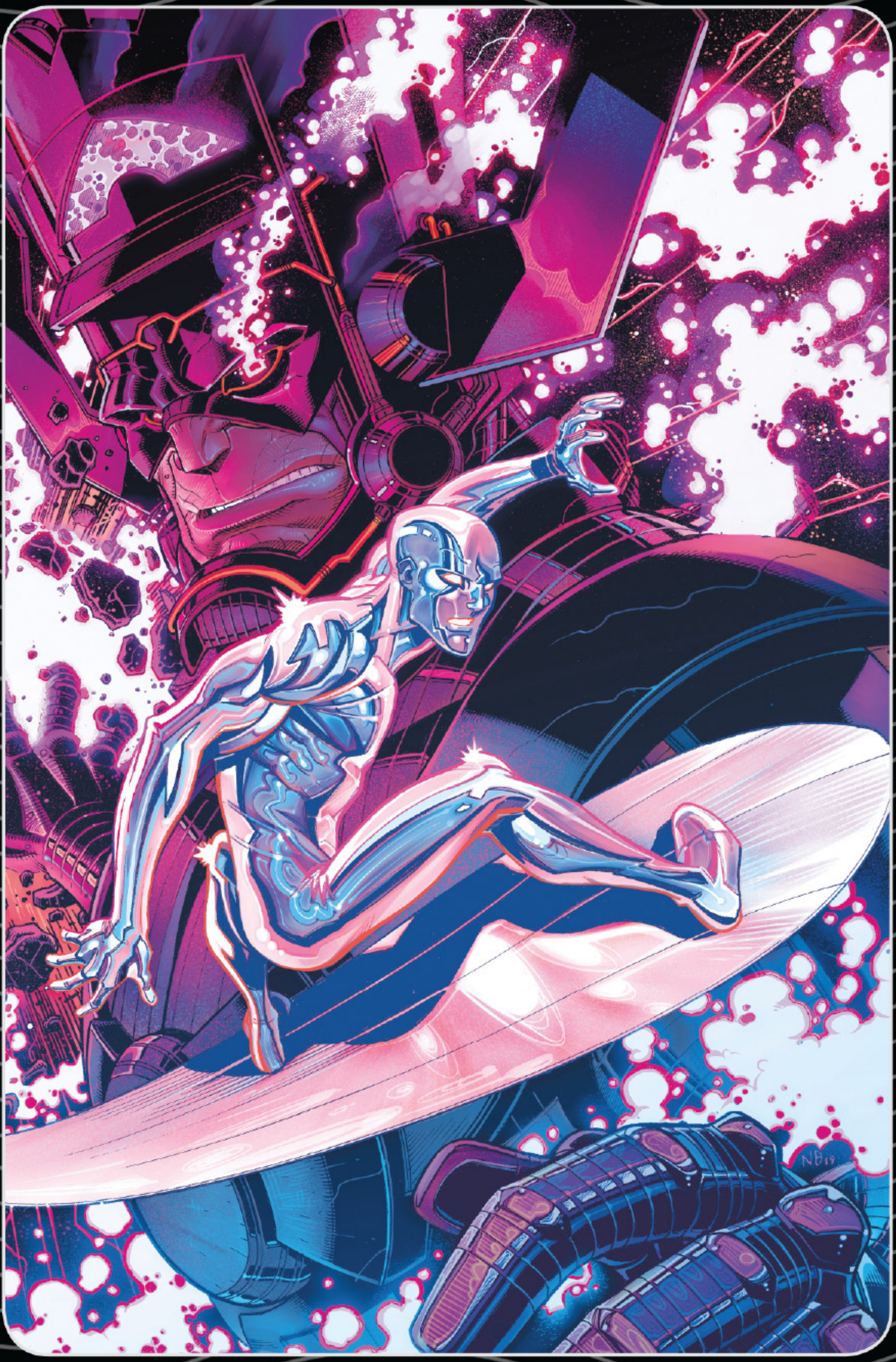
I'M IN THE MOOD FOR A CHASE.
FLY, FLY, FLY...
...AS FAST AS YOU CAN...

FASTER, NORRIN!
I AM TRYING. I AM STILL WEAK FROM MY TIME IN THE--
DID YOU SAY "NORRIN"?
YES. NORRIN RADD FROM ZENN-LA. THE SILVER SURFER. HERALD OF A BEING CALLED GALACTUS.
DESTROYER OF WORLDS.
BUT YOU ARE REPENTANT, ARE YOU NOT?
YOU ARE DEATH.
IT WEIGHS ON YOU, THE DARKNESS...
HOW... DO YOU KNOW THESE THINGS?
I KNOW THEM BECAUSE YOU KNOW THEM. I CAN SEE INSIDE YOUR MIND.
WHO ARE YOU?
COME TO ME. I WILL SHOW YOU WHO I--
NORRIN, BEHIND YOU!
I SEE IT...

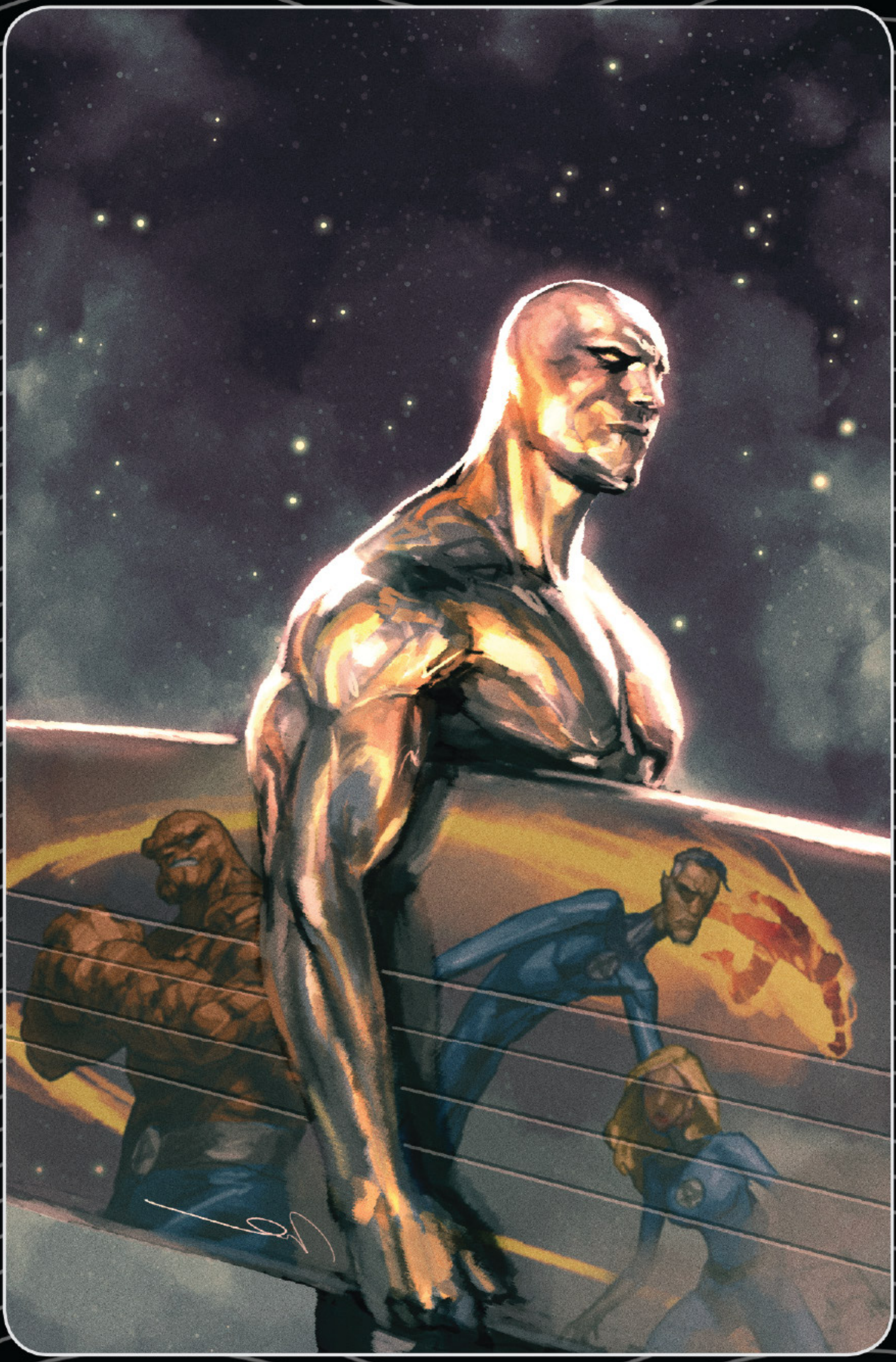
THE COLD GROWS TEETH.
SINKS THEM INTO MY HEART AND RIPS IT FROM MY CHEST.
WAVES OF FEAR CRASH AND SHATTER AGAINST A SHORE OF RAGE.
OF HATE.
I TIRE OF THIS DARK.
THE KING IN BLACK MAY DEVOUR MY LIGHT YET...

FWAAAASSHH!
...BUT HE WILL CHOKE ON IT.
RAGHHH!
NORRIN... ARE YOU--
I SURVIVE.
BUT I AM AFRAID OF WHAT I WILL BE WHEN I AM DONE.
BOARD. FOLLOW THE VOICE.
...HURRY.
THE DARKNESS...INFECTING ME...CHANGING ME...
AM I TO BE DEATH AGAIN? IS THIS HOW I FALL? HOW I BECOME--
NO, NORRIN. NOT THIS DAY.
I SEE IN YOUR MIND. WHEN YOU FOUGHT THIS GOD, THIS KNULL, ON HIS PLANET...
...A VOICE IN YOUR MIND TOLD YOU THAT YOU WOULD DESERVE THIS DEATH.
"THIS WOULD BE A FITTING END," IT SAID.
"FOR A DESTROYER OF WORLDS...
"...TO BE DEVOURED BY ONE."
TODAY, NORRIN...THIS CHANGES...
BECAUSE TODAY...A PLANET WILL BE YOUR SALVATION...

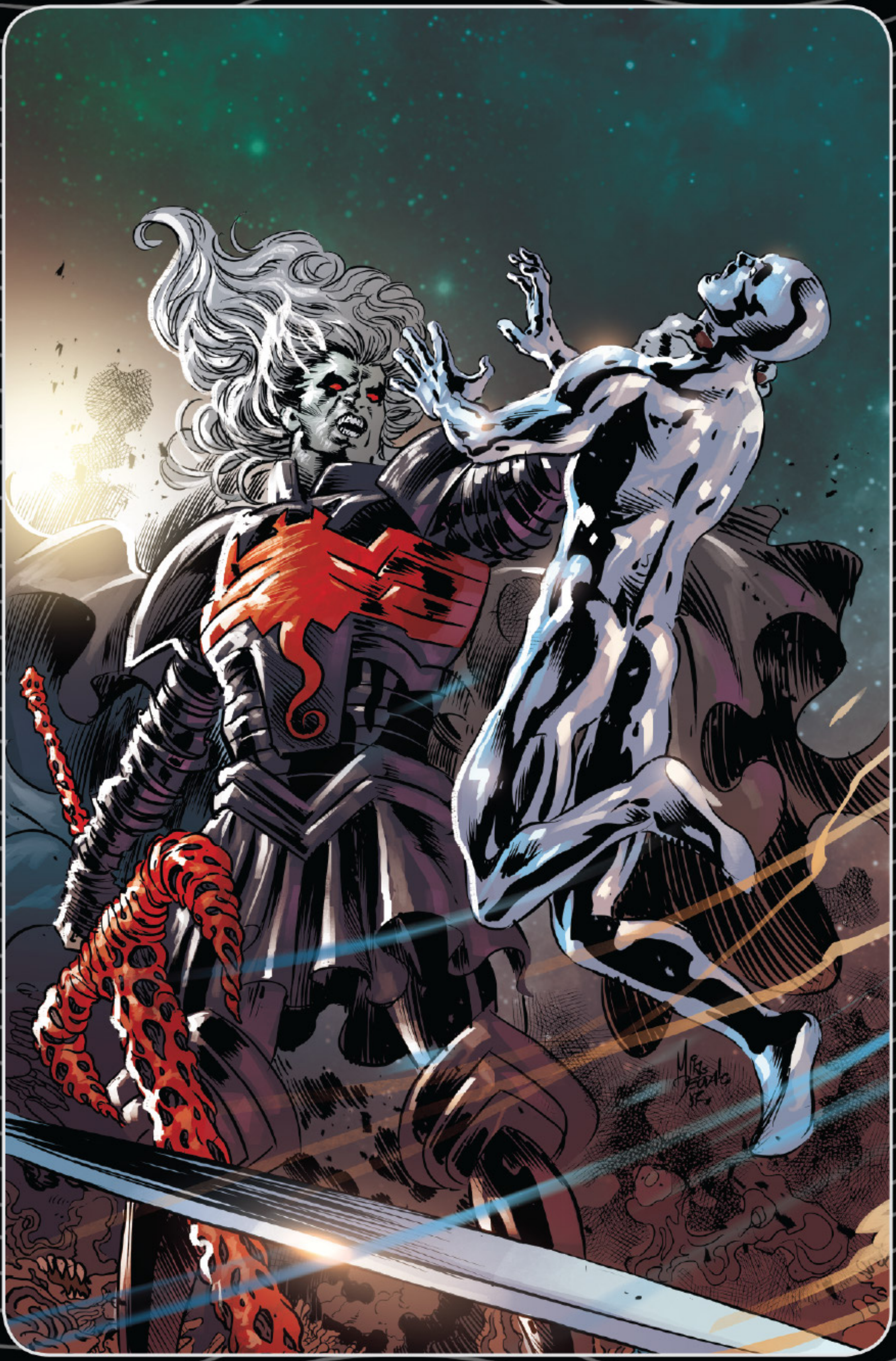
MY NAME IS *EGO.*
SHALL WE KILL A GOD?



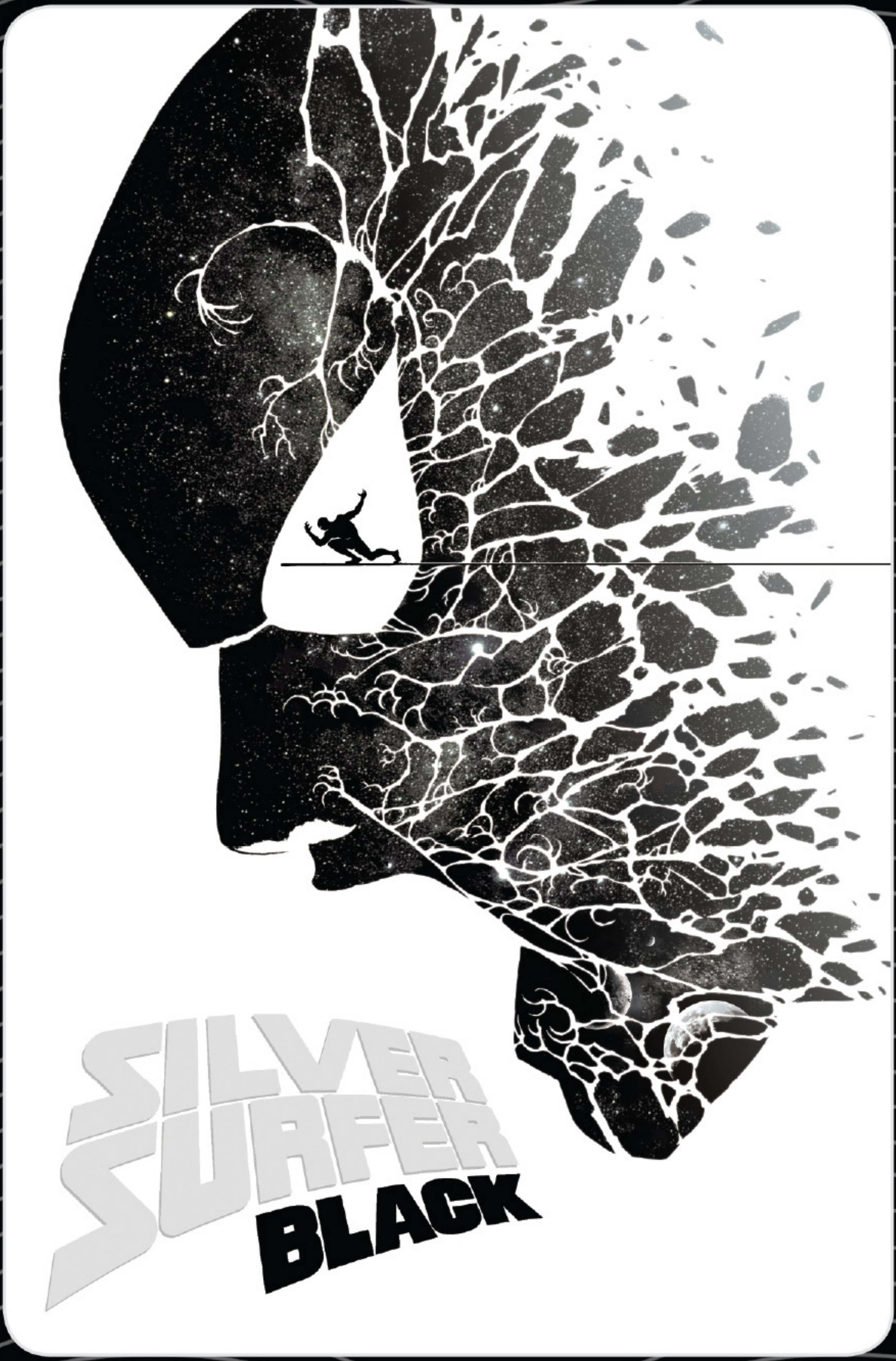
**NICK BRADSHAW & JOHN RAUCH**
#1 VARIANT



**GERALD PAREL**
#1 VARIANT



**MIKE DEODATO JR. & RAIN BEREDO**
#1 SPOILER 2ND-PRINTING VARIANT


SILVER SURFER
BLACK

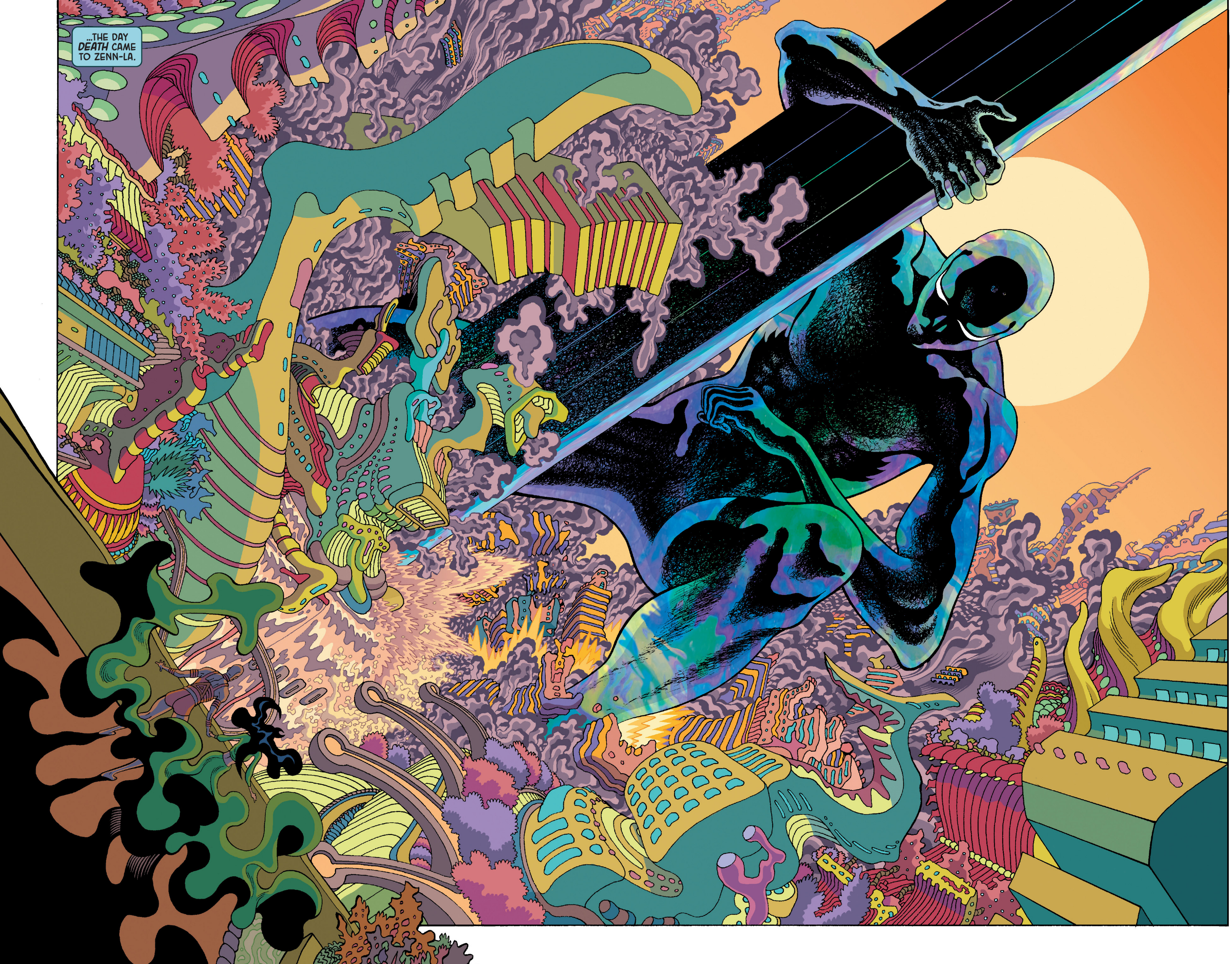
**MARCOS MARTIN**
#2 VARIANT

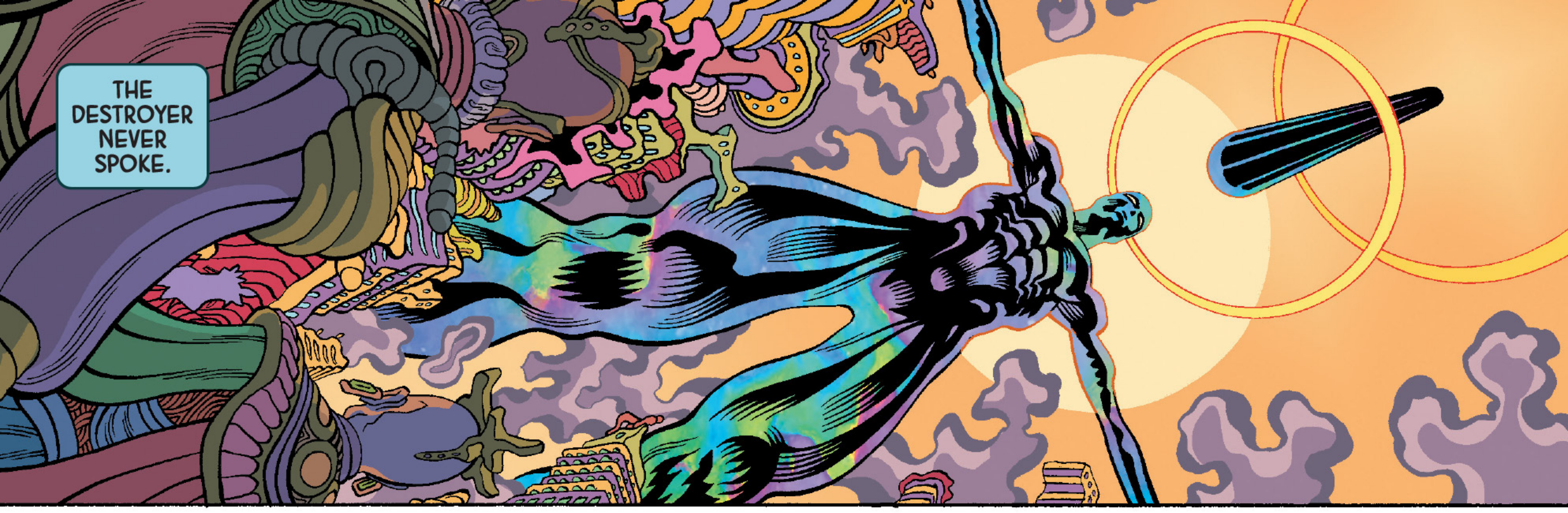
# THREE

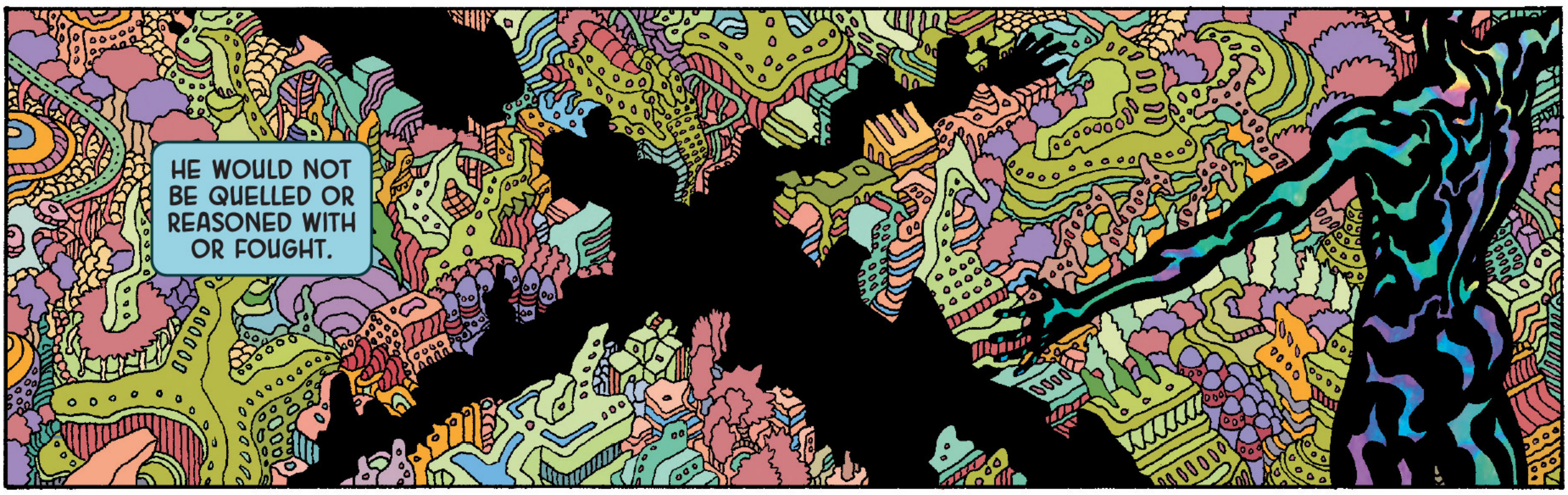
IN MY LONG LIFE, I HAVE HAD MANY NAMES.
OF ALL OF THEM...
...NORRIN...
...IS THE ONE I CARRY IN MY HEART.
SPOKEN ON A BREATHLESS WHISPER BY MY LOVE.
ON A WORLD SO FAR AWAY.

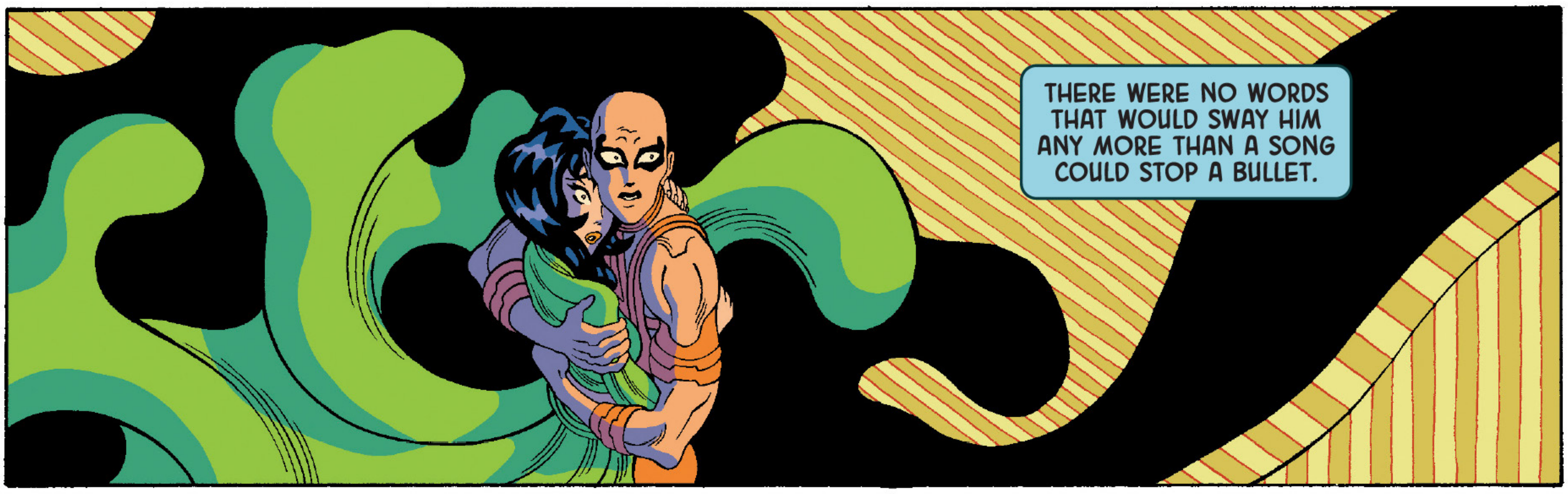
*SHALLA-BAL.* MY ONE. MY CONSTANT.
HI.
MY LIGHT.
*MMMM.*
YOU GET PRETTIER EVERY MORNING, DO YOU KNOW THAT? HOW DO YOU...SHINE LIKE THIS?
I REFLECT.
NORRIN... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DREAMING.
JUST DREAMING...
YOU REALLY WANT TO BRING A CHILD INTO THIS?
THE WORLD... IT'S SO *DARK...*

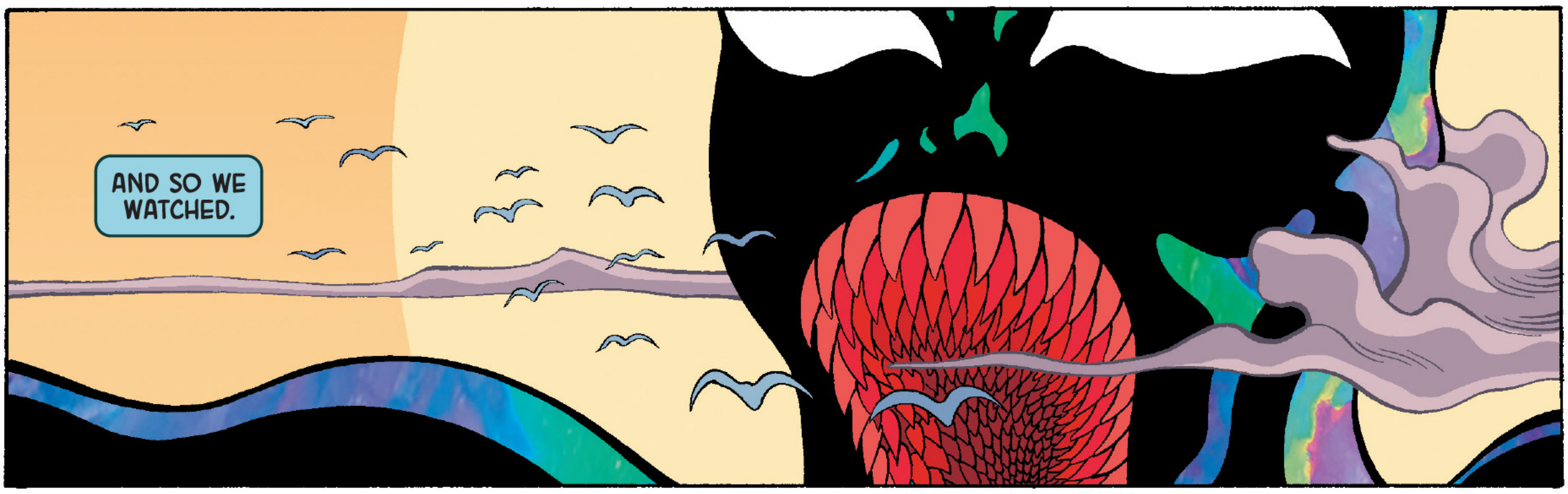
THEN LET'S MAKE A LIGHT.
THERE. THAT MOMENT.
SHALLA LOOKING AT ME WITH GENTLE EYES THAT COULD HUSH A STORM...
THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I KNEW PEACE.
BOOM
NORRIN! WHAT IS HAPPENING? THAT NOISE!
THE WINDOW, QUICKLY!
THE LAST TIME I TOUCHED MY LOVE WITH A HAND THAT BELONGED TO ME.
THE LAST TIME I FELT SMALL.
ZWOOP
ZWOOP
POWERLESS.
THRAAN ABOVE...
FOR THAT WAS THE DAY *HE* ARRIVED...
EEEE EEEE
...IT... CANNOT BE.

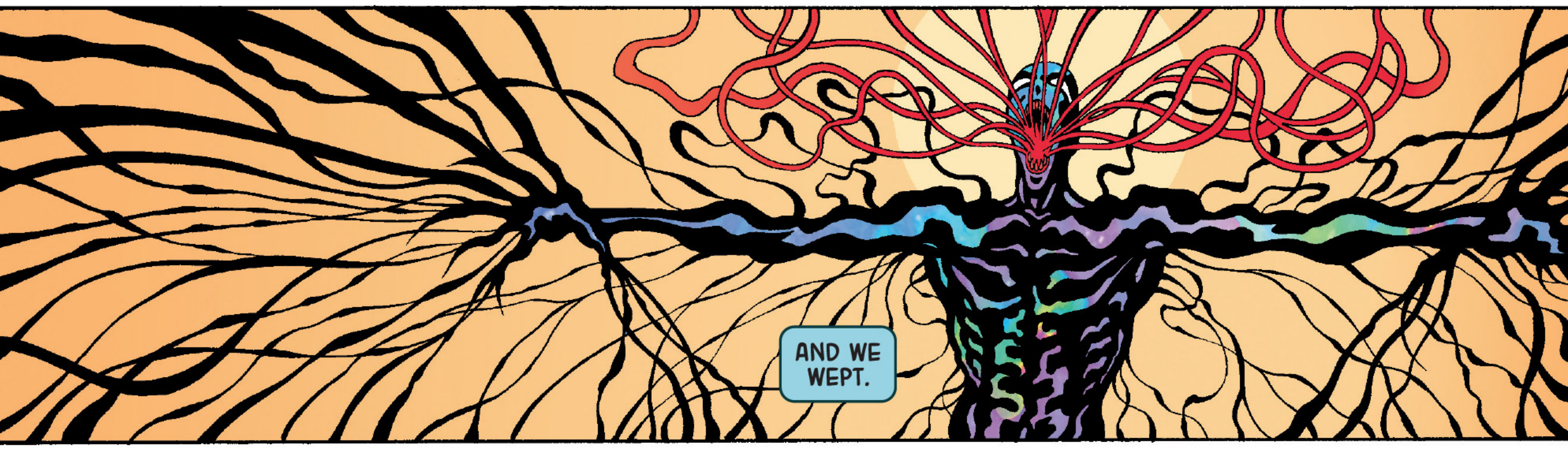

...THE DAY *DEATH* CAME TO ZENN-LA.

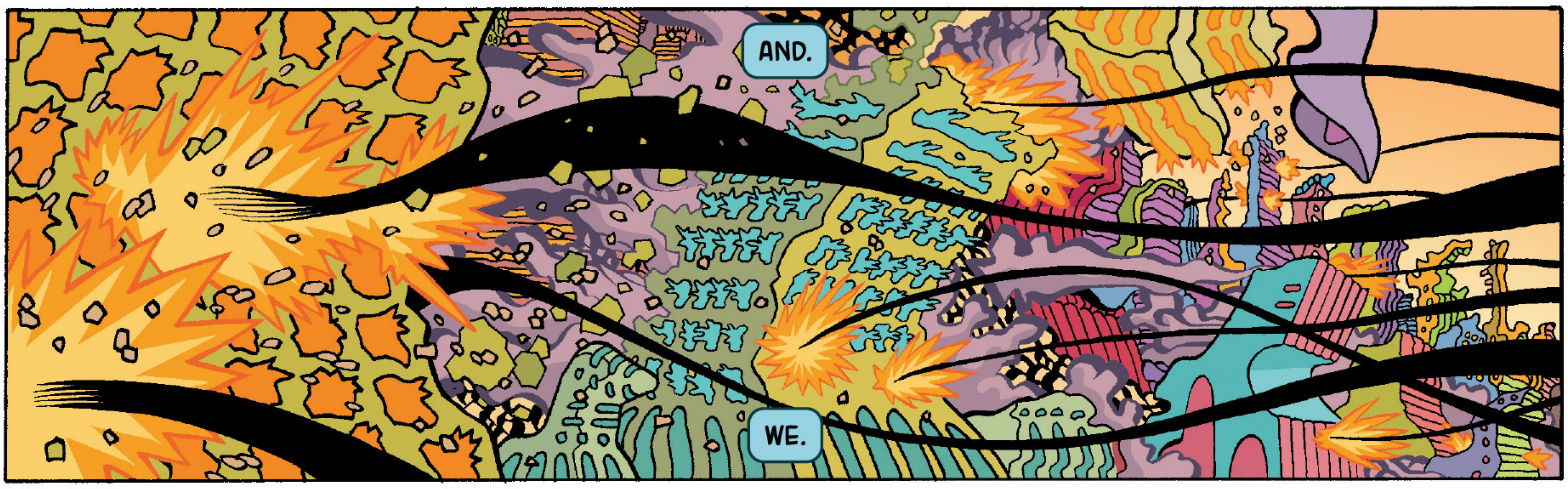

THE DESTROYER NEVER SPOKE.

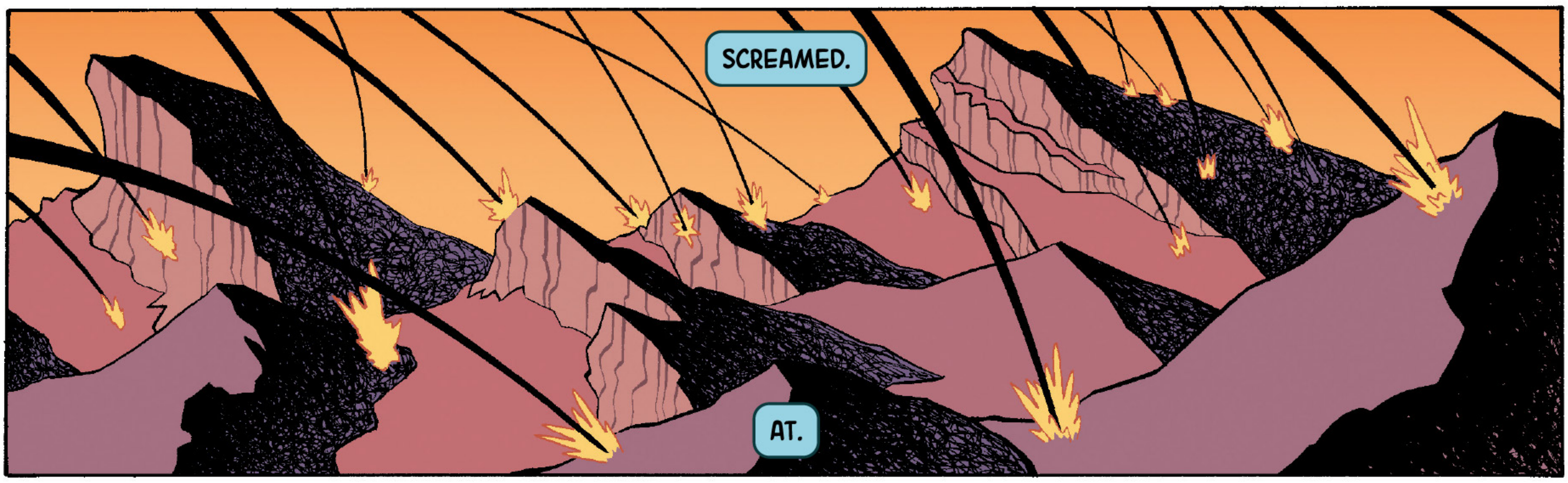

HE WOULD NOT BE QUELLED OR REASONED WITH OR FOUGHT.

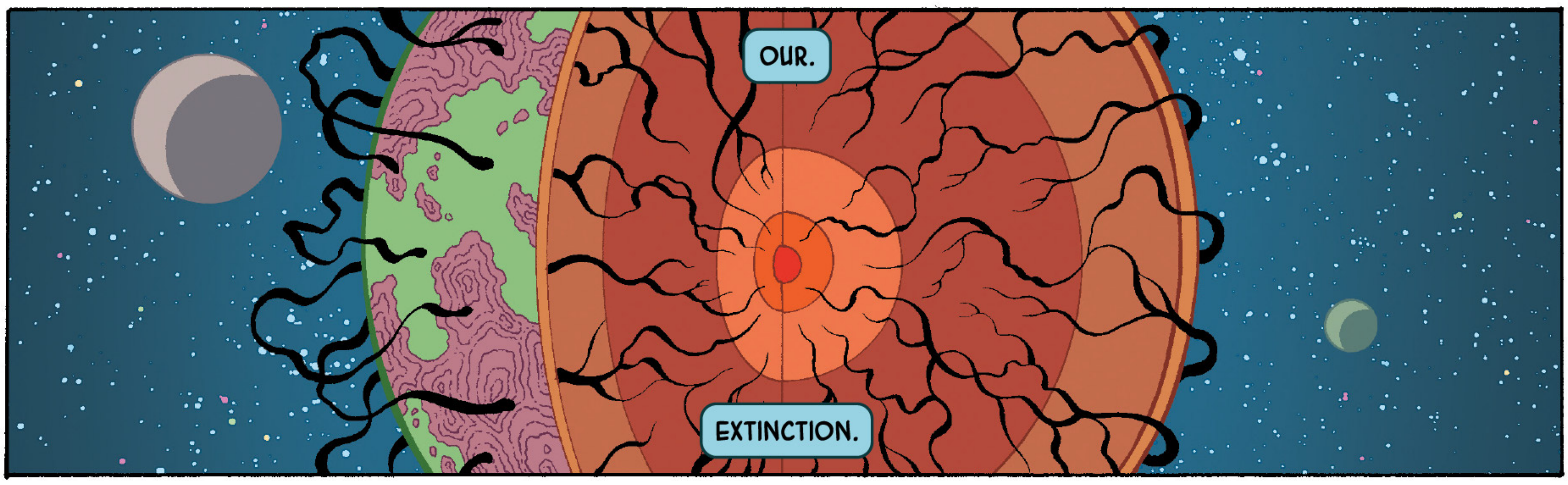

THERE WERE NO WORDS THAT WOULD SWAY HIM ANY MORE THAN A SONG COULD STOP A BULLET.

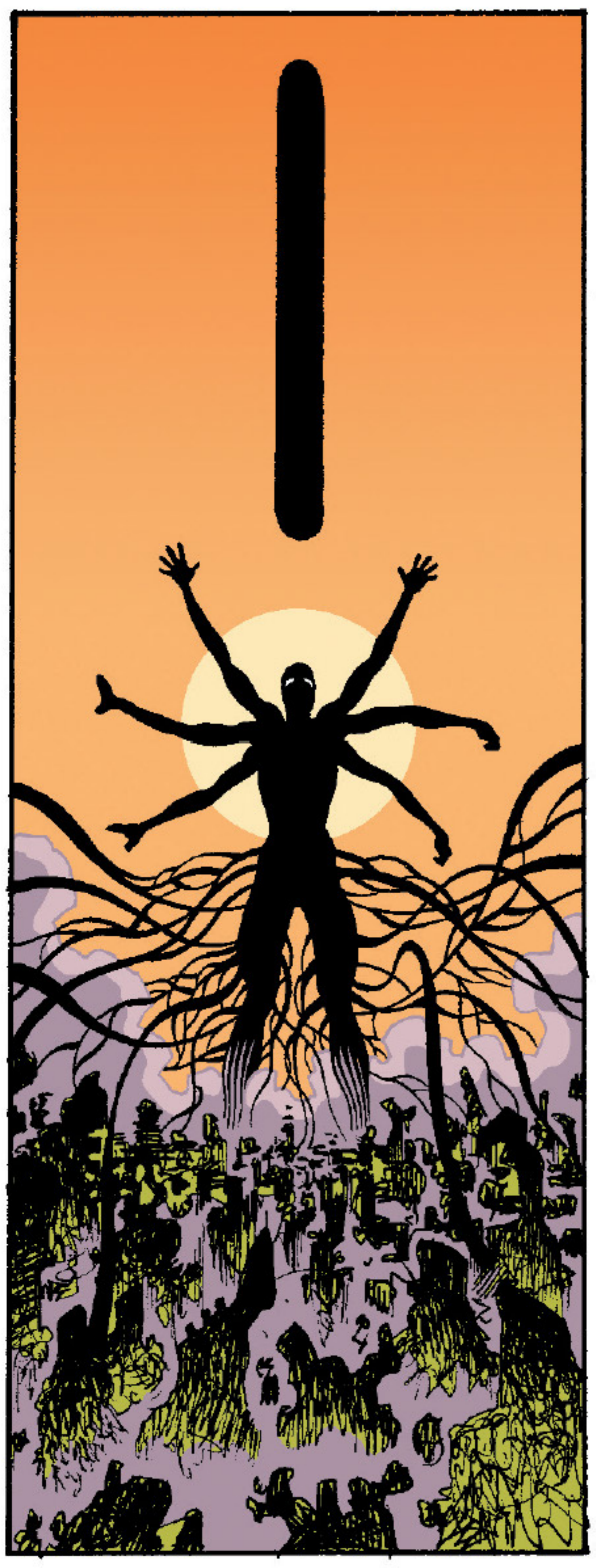

AND SO WE WATCHED.

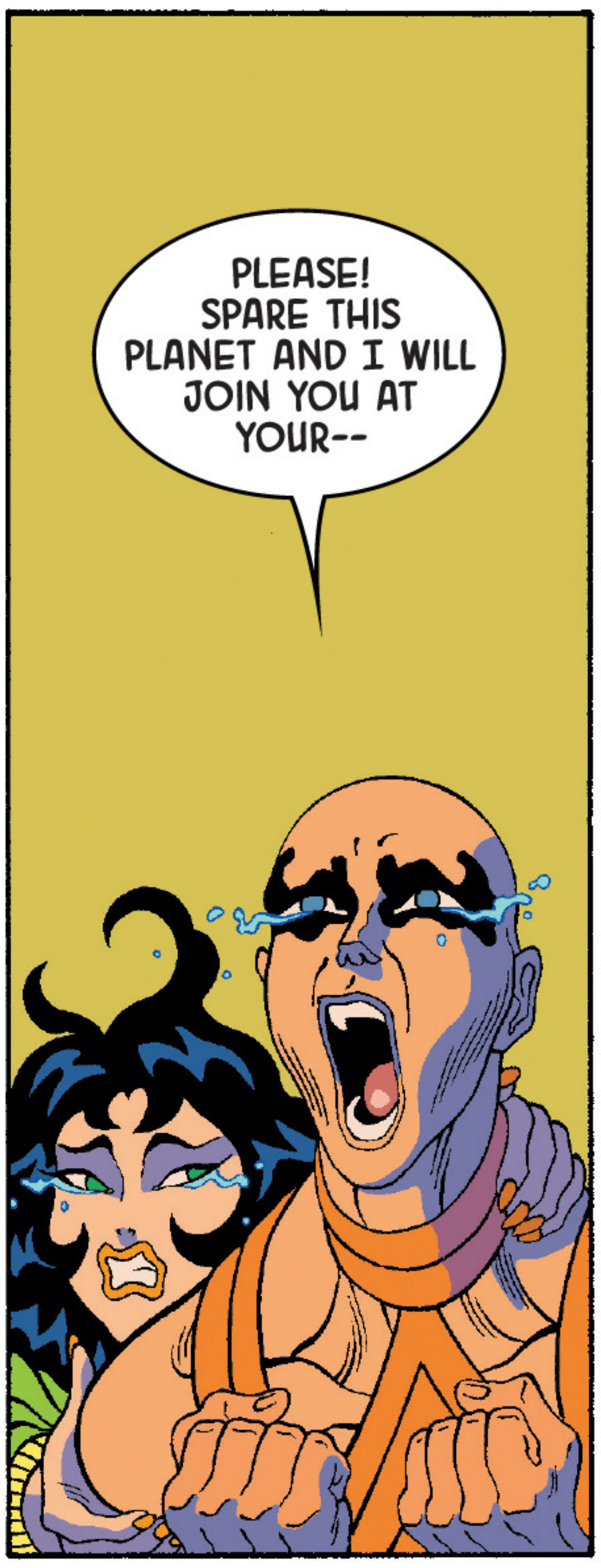

AND WE WEPT.

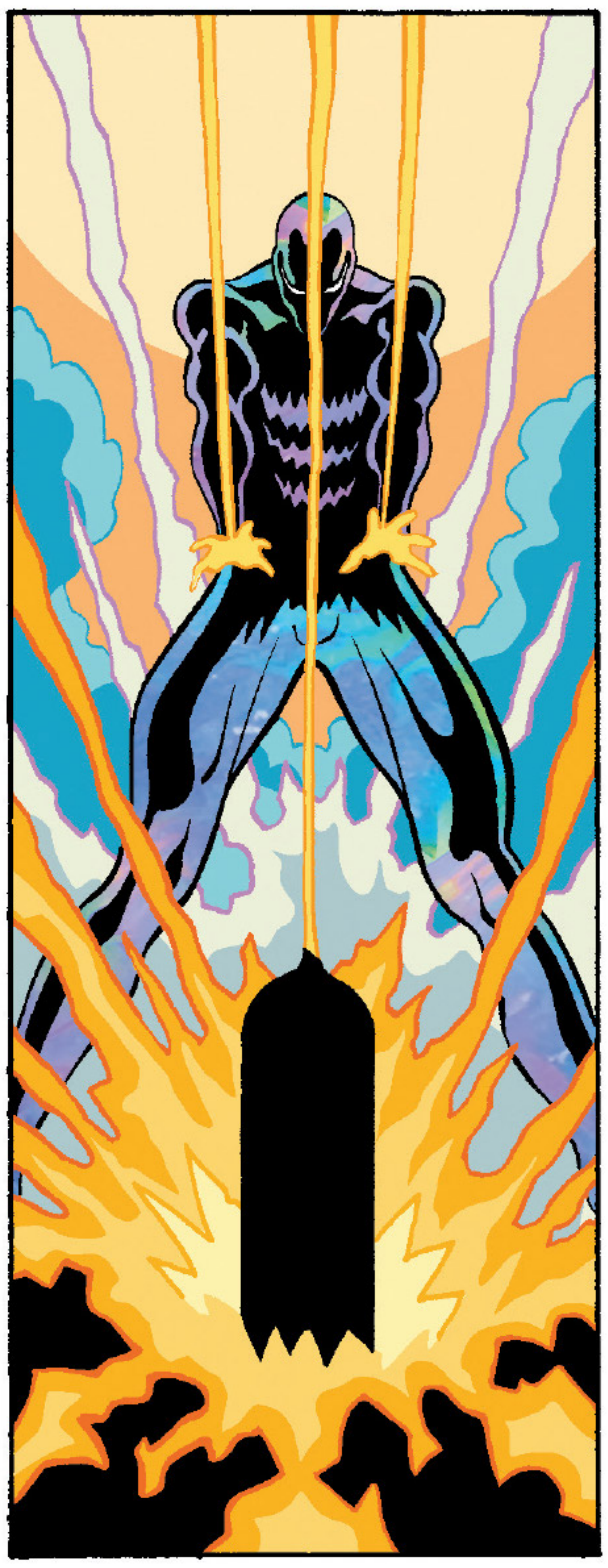

AND.
WE.

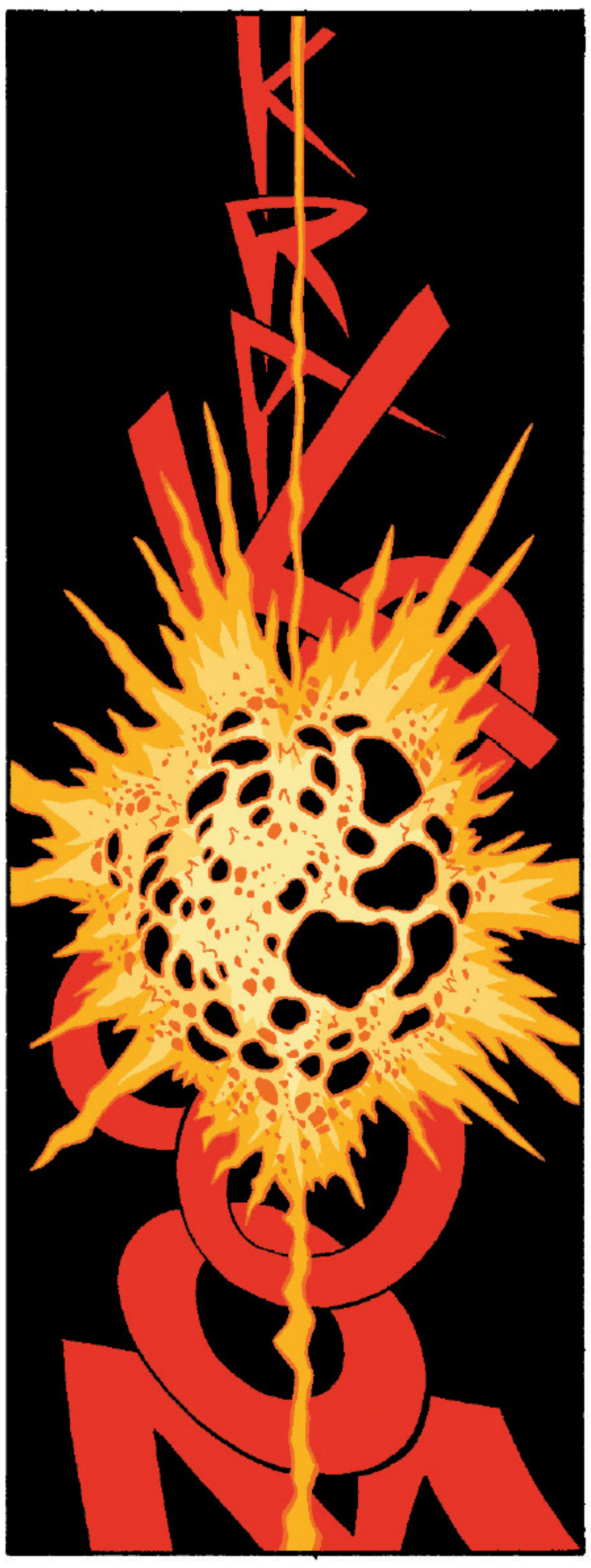

SCREAMED.
AT.


OUR.
EXTINCTION.




PLEASE! SPARE THIS PLANET AND I WILL JOIN YOU AT YOUR--




KRAKOOM

WHEN I SLEEP, THE NIGHTMARE IS THE SAME.
I AM THE DESTROYER. I AM DEATH.
I AM...
NORRIN...
...AWAKE.
YOU HAVE SLEPT FOR DAYS. AND I HAVE SHELTERED YOU IN MY GRAVITY WELL.
BUT IT IS TIME...
ON A WORLD SO FAR AWAY.
WE MUST BEGIN.

I APOLOGIZE, AND I THANK YOU, EGO.
I WAS... I AM...
...QUITE INJURED.
I KNOW THIS, NORRIN. I CAN SEE INTO YOUR MIND. I KNOW ALL THERE IS TO KNOW.
THE STARS YOU HAVE BEEN CREATING FROM YOUR BODY HAVE TAKEN THEIR TOLL...
AND NOW...
...THE WORDS *"RAPID ATOMIC DEGENERATION"* FLOW IN YOUR MIND...I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY MEAN...
IT MEANS THAT I AM COMING UNDONE, EGO. COMING APART AND I CANNOT STOP IT.
MAY I LAND?
YOU MAY.
THANK YOU FOR ASKING.

OF COURSE. I WOULD NEVER VIOLATE A BEING'S INNER SPACE...
HMM, POINT TAKEN, NORRIN.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE INTRUSION OF YOUR MIND. YOUR PRESENCE IN THIS SECTOR...YOUR LIGHT...
I HAD TO BE SURE YOU WERE AN ALLY.
KNULL AND HIS NEW WEAPONS HAVE CREATED SO MUCH DARKNESS IN THE--
RRMMBLEEE
AGH!
EGO! WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU?! WHAT'S--
--WRONG?
I AM A YOUNG PLANET... I...I AM GROWING IS ALL.
THINK NOTHING OF IT.

EGO...IF YOU KNOW ALL THERE IS TO KNOW IN MY MIND...THEN YOU MUST KNOW WHAT I AM TO ASK OF YOU...
YES.
YOU WISH ME TO JOIN IN YOUR WAR AGAINST *KNULL*, THE VOID KING.
TO GIVE YOU POWER.
YES. I AM WEAKENED, AS YOU WELL KNOW. I BELIEVE... I BELIEVE I KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE TO COMBAT THE GROWING DARK... BUT I WILL NEED--
AGHH!
BRRMBLE!
EGO!
AGHHH!!!
BOARD, TO ME!

EGO, YOU MUST TELL ME--WHAT IS WRONG?!
IT IS-- ≠RRRRMMBLLLEE≠ --SOMETHING...
SOMETHING... INSIDE ME.
SOMETHING... CRRRASHED INTO ME.
A METEORITE OF SOME-- ≠GRRRMMMBLL≠ --KIND!
IT IS EMBEDDED DEEP IN MY CORE...AND IT...
...IT IS GROWING.
IT IS... KILLING ME.
EGO...
I WILL FIX THIS FOR YOU.
I CAN. AND I WILL.
SURFER, YOU WOULD NOT SURVIVE MY CORE.
OH, EGO. I SEE YOUR WOUND.
THE PAIN YOU MUST BE IN.
NORRIN, YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND...

I AM A PLANET, BUT I AM ALIVE.
MY IMMUNE SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO KILL TECTONIC CANCERS AND DEEP CELESTIAL HYPER-LIGHT VIRUSES.
YOU HAVE NEVER FACED ANYTHING LIKE ME.
I HAVE FACED MORE AND WORSE, EGO.
AND I WILL FACE THIS AS WELL.
I WILL NOT USE YOUR PAIN TO BARGAIN, BUT I WILL ASK ONLY ONCE...
IF I HELP YOU TODAY...IF I FIX YOU...
...WILL YOU HELP ME IN MY FIGHT?
WHRRRRRRRRRR
VVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVVV
...
YES, NORRIN.
I WILL HELP YOU.
VERY WELL.
PREPARE YOURSELF.
THIS WILL HURT.
ZWOOP
AGHHH!!!

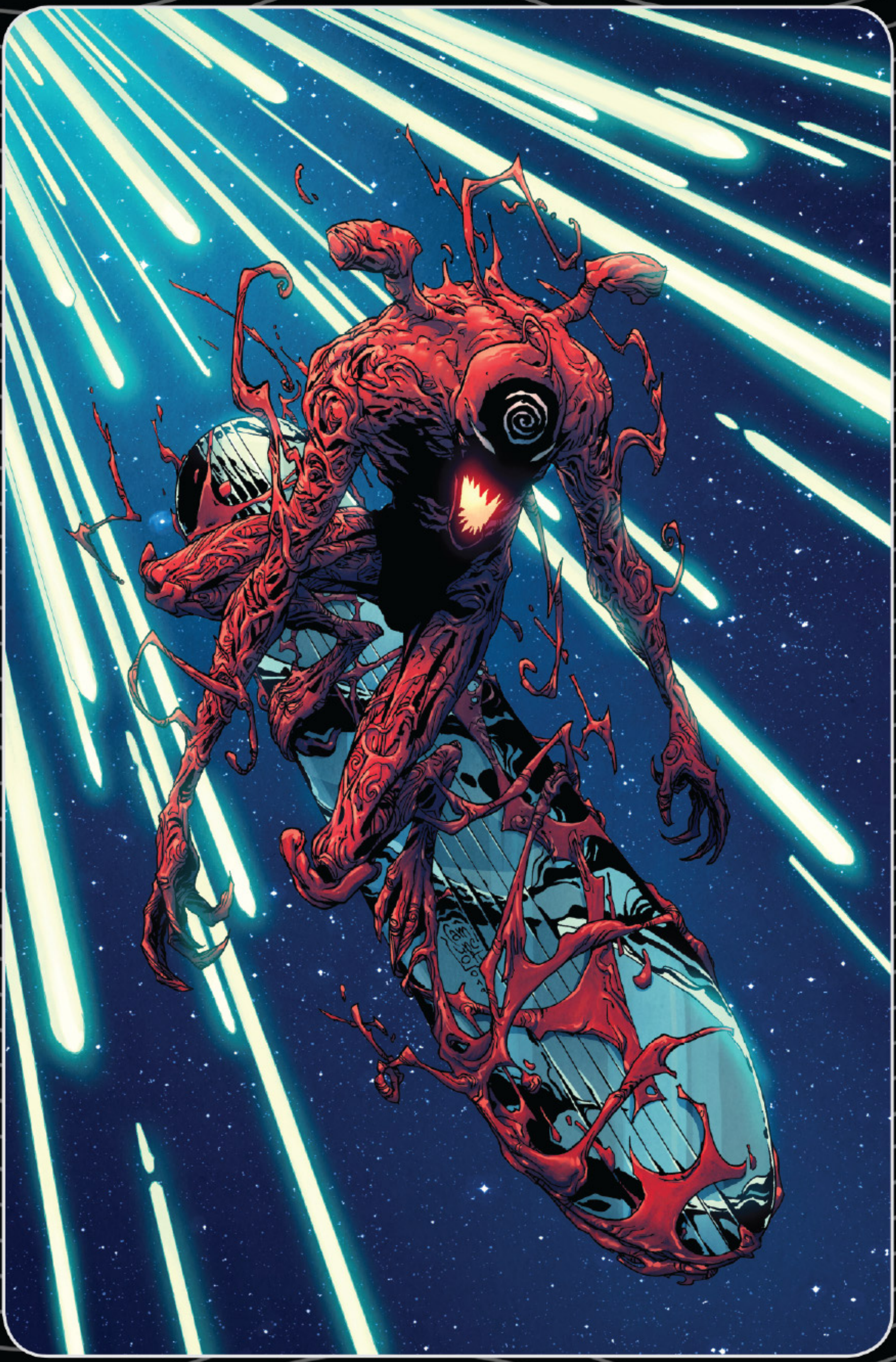
AND THEN I AM AWAY.
THE INFECTED ROCK OF THIS PLANET'S WOUND SPLINTER BENEATH ME.
CUTTING THROUGH THE YIELDING CLAY AND LOAM LIKE A HAWK THROUGH SKY.
A GREAT OCEAN OF BRUISED STONE GROUND TO DUST.
DEPOSITS OF GALACTIC DIAMOND THE SIZE OF CHITAURI LEVIATHAN FRIGATES SCRAPE AT MY WOUNDED FLESH.
UNDAUNTED, I DIG.
I GLIDE, UNSCATHED, THROUGH THE BASALT AND SLAG...
I EMERGE, THROUGH A WATERFALL OF FIRE...

...AND I FIND MYSELF...
...IN HELL.

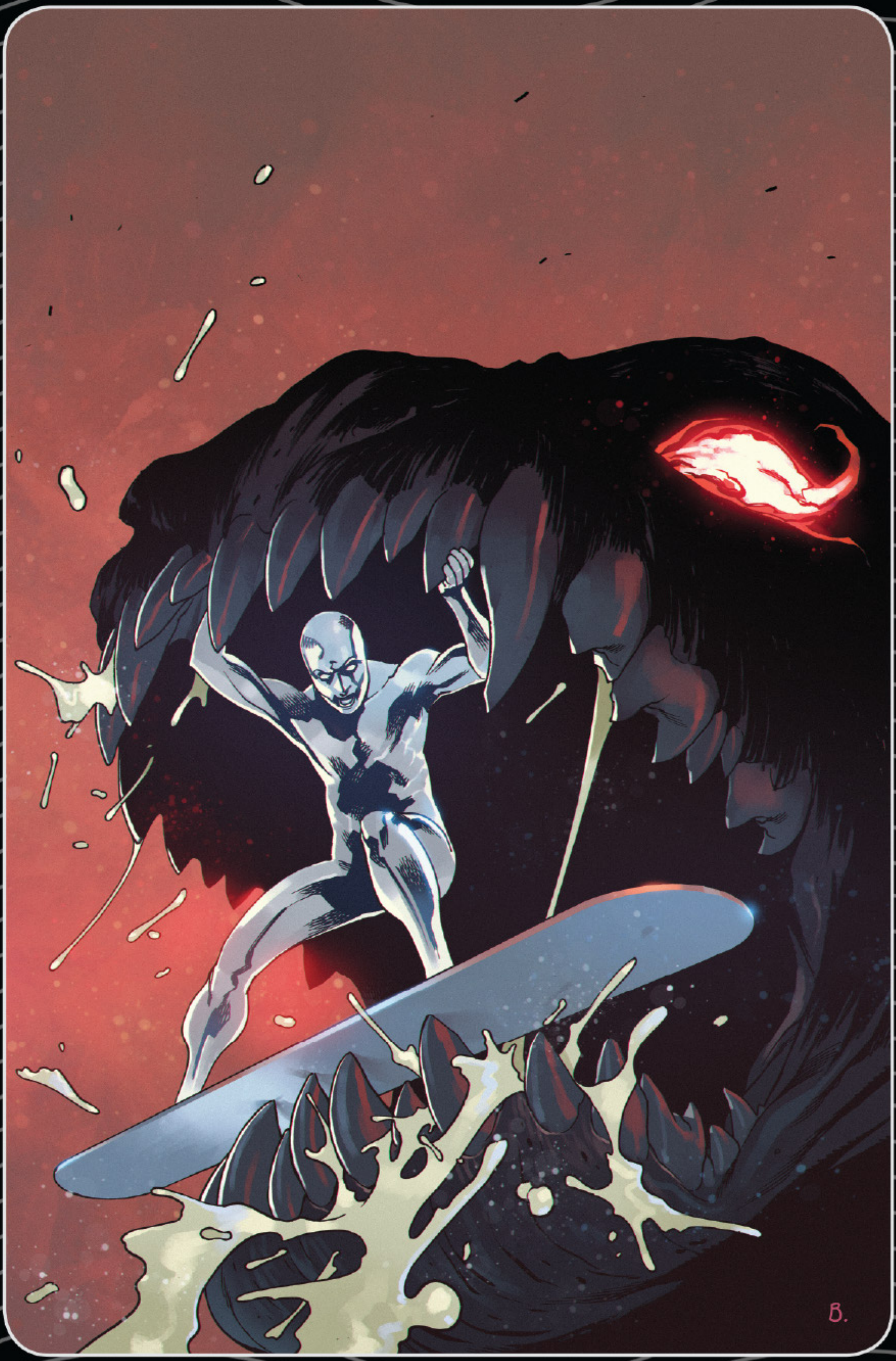
SSCHHHHWOOOS
IN ANOTHER TIME, THE ANTIBODIES INSIDE OF EGO WOULD BE LITTLE WORK FOR MY POWER COSMIC.
BOARD, A BLADE, PLEASE.
MY BOARD AND I WOULD BARELY SHUDDER AS WE SCORCHED THEM IN OUR WAKE.
BUT WITH MY SHELL WEAKENED, AND MY CORE DEGRADING BY THE MOMENT...
BBBBZZZZ
...I FEEL ALL OF IT.
EVERY SCRAPE AT MY FLESH.
EVERY LICK OF FLAME.
EVEN WITH MY BOARD SLICING THROUGH THE VIOLENT CELLS AS FAST AS THEY CAN SELF-REPLICATE...
THE WORK, THE BATTLE...IT IS... EXHAUSTING.
BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE.
NO.
NEVER THAT.

ALAS, THERE ARE TOO MANY ANTIBODIES.
AND IF I KILL THEM ALL, I RISK KILLING EGO.
BUT I CAN SURVIVE WHERE THEY CANNOT.
THE CORE OF THIS PLANET BURNS HOT ENOUGH TO REDUCE MOST LIVING THINGS TO ATOMS...
TO BEINGS SUCH AS MYSELF, WRAPPED IN THE POWER COSMIC...
...IT IS WARM.
STILL...I AM NOT WHAT I ONCE WAS.
AND AS MY BLACK ARM ERUPTS TO FLAMES, I FEAR I SHOULD NOT TARRY IN THIS PLACE.
AND THEN... I SEE IT.
THE TUMOR THAT FELL FROM THE SKY.
THE BLACK GROWING IN THE BRIGHT.
AND WITH A FEELING THAT IS BOTH DREAD AND INEVITABILITY CRASHING INTO EACH OTHER... I SENSE WHAT IT IS...
NO...IT CANNOT BE...

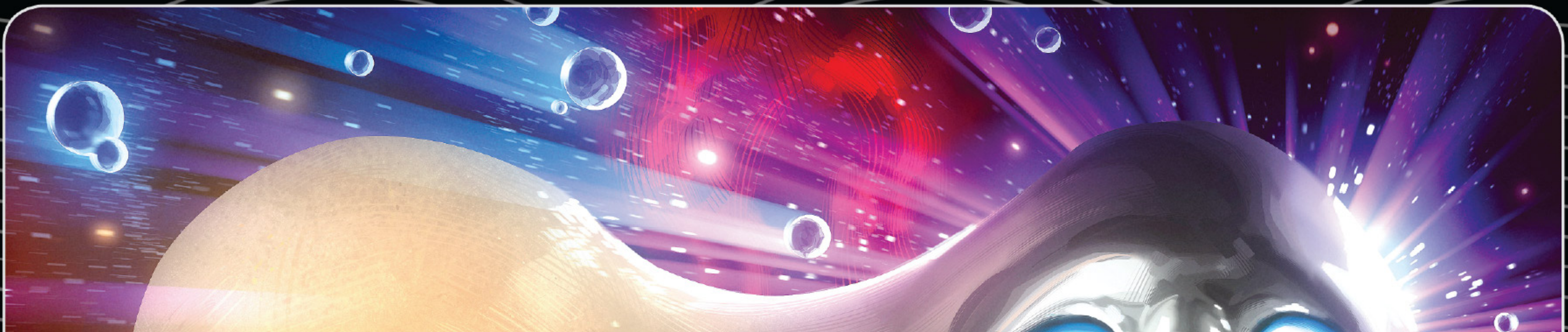
IT IS THE DESTROYER.
THE WORLD-KILLER, YET TO BE BORN.
HERE...IN THE BURNING INFANT CORE OF EGO THE LIVING PLANET...
...LIES *LIFEBRINGER ONE.*
THE COSMIC INCUBATOR...OF *GALACTUS.*



**GIUSEPPE CAMUNCOLI & JEAN-FRANÇOIS BEAULIEU**
#2 SDCC VARIANT



**BENGAL**
#3 VARIANT



**ALEX GARNER**
#4 IMMORTAL VARIANT

# FOUR

I CAN FEEL IT. GROWING.
THE DARKNESS LOOMS AS I CARRY MY MAKER ON MY BACK.
LONG AGO, BEFORE HE WAS THE DEVOURER, GALACTUS WAS AN EXPLORER NAMED *GALAN.*
WHEN HIS UNIVERSE DIED OR PERHAPS WAS KILLED...HE WAS REMADE WITHIN THIS INCUBATOR AND SHUNTED INTO OUR UNIVERSE WHEN IT EXPLODED INTO BEING.
HE IS IN THERE NOW. AND AS I DELIVER HIM FROM THIS FRAGILE, LIVING PLANET, MY SHADOW GROWS ALONG WITH HIM.
AND I KNOW.
MY TIME BURNING IN THE INFINITE NIGHT IS SOON COMING TO AN END.
BUT PERHAPS...PERHAPS HERE, AT THE DAWN OF TIME...FACING OBLIVION ON THE BACK OF A DRAGON...
...PERHAPS FATE HAS GIVEN ME ONE MORE CHANCE...
...TO END IT.
TO END IT *ALL.*

NORRIN...
YOU... YOU HAVE DONE IT. THE PAIN IS GONE...
YES, EGO.
I OWE YOU MY LIFE.
I OWE MORE...
LIGHT!
I FEEL IT TOO...
YES...
...HE IS COMING.
KNULL IS COMING.

I WILL TAKE MY LEAVE.
I WILL NOT HAVE THIS WAR ON YOUR GROUNDS.
NORRIN...
I GAVE YOU MY WORD.
I WILL HELP YOU FIGHT THIS BLACK KING.
REACH OUT TO ME...
...AND I WILL BE AT YOUR SIDE.
I KNOW, EGO.
BUT... I BELIEVE I HAVE ANOTHER WAY.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SHELTER. I WILL NOT FORGET IT.
THAT IS YOUR MAKER IN THAT MACHINE, YES?
GALACTUS?
YES.
WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH HIM?
HMMM...
OH...

"...I'M GOING TO KILL HIM."
HELIOS-RA.
WHITE DWARF STAR OF THE APOLLO SYSTEM.
ONE.
SLIGHT.
PUSH.
AND IT ALL GOES AWAY.

COUNTLESS LIVES SPARED FROM HIS HUNGER.
HUNDREDS OF PLANETS SHINING THEIR LIGHT INTO THE DARKNESS.
AND I...
NORRIN...
...I'M SORRY.
NORRIN...

...COME WITH ME.
...UATU?
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
OBSERVING.
STOPPING YOU.

STOP ME? YOU ARE A *WATCHER.* YOU ARE BOUND TO NOT INTERFERE WITH--
THE WATCHERS HAVE DECREED THAT GALACTUS SHALL LIVE. THERE MUST ALWAYS BE A BALANCE.
THE LIGHT. THE DARK.
YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS THE INTERFERENCE.
NOT MINE.
THIS IS MADNESS.
HE WILL KILL BILLIONS! IT HAS TO END!
THIS WILL NOT END YOUR PAIN.
THERE ARE MANY LIVES, NORRIN. EVERY ACTION MAKES BRANCHES OF REALITIES. POSSIBLE UNIVERSES.
IN ONE, YOU DIE ALONE ON ZENN-LA.
IN ONE, YOU GROW OLD WITH YOUR WIFE AND YOUR CHILDREN.
IN ONE, YOU LIVE UNTIL THE END OF TIME AND DIE AT THE HANDS OF THANOS WHILE WIELDING MJOLNIR.
IN THE ONE YOU PROPOSE-- YOU KILL THE INFANT GALACTUS IN HIS INCUBATOR.
BUT HEAR ME...YOUR ACTIONS...THE THINGS YOU HAVE DONE... WILL NOT BE UNMADE.
YOU WILL STILL REMAIN. YOUR HANDS NO LESS BLOODY.
THE ONLY THING THAT WILL CHANGE...

...IS THAT YOU WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH WHAT YOU HAVE DONE THIS DAY.
I DON'T KNOW...
...HOW TO WIN.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SURVIVE THIS... KNULL.
YOU FACE A GROWING DARKNESS THAT THREATENS US ALL.
THE END OF EVERYTHING WE KNOW.
I WILL NOT INTERFERE...
...BUT IF I MAY...
PERHAPS YOU COULD SEEK COUNSEL FROM SOMEONE WHO HAS SURVIVED THE END OF EVERYTHING ONCE BEFORE...
GALAN...
YES...

IF I COULD...REACH HIS MIND...
THE POWER... PERHAPS I COULD--
WHAT IS...
I FEEL HIM. I TOUCH HIS MIND.
AND I SEE IT.
HIS LAST HOURS IN HIS UNIVERSE.
*THE BLACK WINTER* THAT FELL ON HIS REALITY.
TRILLIONS OF SOULS SCREAMING AND DYING AND BLINKING OUT OF EXISTENCE.
IT IS TOO MUCH...EVEN FOR ME...
I CAN'T...I CANNOT... STAND IT...
AND THEN, RISING FROM AN OCEAN OF FREEZING DEATH...

...HE IS THERE.

MY MAKER DOES NOT KNOW ME.
NOT YET.
CHOOFF!!!
TO HIM, I MUST SEEM A SERPENT.
STEALING THE ESSENCE OF THE YOUNG, UNBORN IN THEIR NEST.
AND HE IS RIGHT.
I COULD TAKE HIS LIGHT, HIS POWER COSMIC, AND HEAL MY BROKEN SHELL.
KSSHH!!!
AND SO HE TWISTS AND CONTORTS HIS INFANT FORM TO INTIMIDATE.
TO SCARE ME AWAY.
THAT IS ENOUGH, GALACTUS!
BWOOOM
SHOW ME WHO YOU ARE!
BUT I KNOW THE TRUE FACE OF GALACTUS THE DEVOURER...

...AND I AM UNAFRAID.
NO, GALAN...
...YOUR *REAL* FACE.
WHY...
WHY DO YOU ATTACK ME, TRAVELER?
WHO ARE YOU?

I MEAN TO KILL YOU.
FOR THE THINGS YOU WILL DO AND THE THING YOU WILL BECOME. SO THAT I MAY HEAL MYSELF TO STOP ANOTHER HORROR.
I SEE.
AND THESE THINGS I WILL DO...
...SHOULD I KNOW MY CRIMES BEFORE I AM TO BE EXECUTED FOR THEM?
WHAT AM I TO BECOME?
DEATH.
YOU BECOME A DESTROYER OF WORLDS.
YOU FEAST UPON THEM IN THE NAME OF SOME UNSEEN SCALE YOU CLAIM TO BALANCE.
MMMM. I SEE.
IF I MAY...
...IS THAT NOT ALSO *YOUR* EXCUSE?

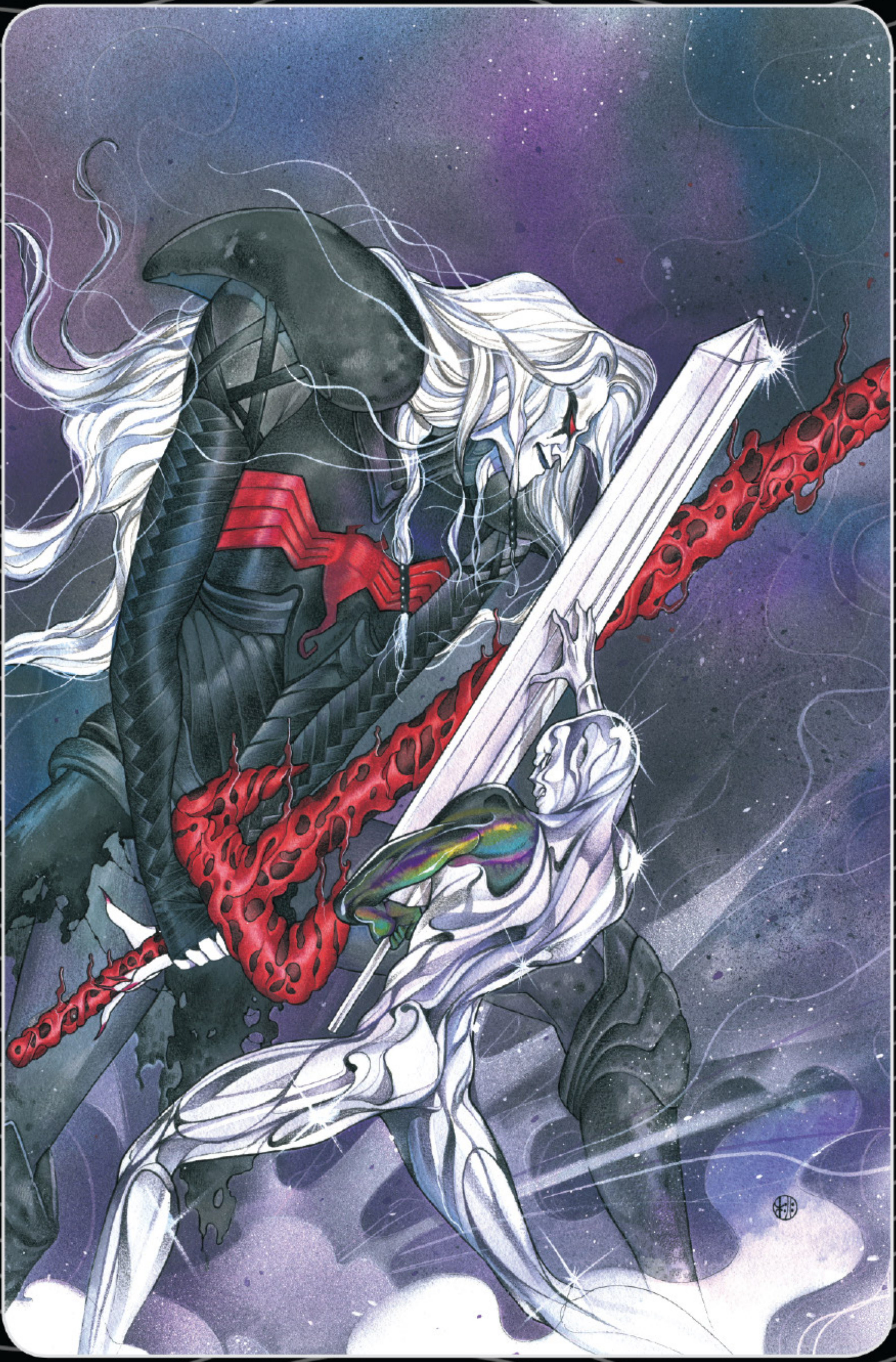
I'M... SORRY?
YOU HOPE TO SNUFF MY LIFE OUT IN ORDER TO PREVENT SOME SORT OF OTHER...WHAT DID YOU CALL IT, "HORROR"?
YOU WOULD KILL LIGHT TO BEAT THE DARK...
...ARE YOU NOT ALSO BALANCING THE FATES WITH DEATH?
I HAVE FELT IT, TRAVELER.
THIS NEW POWER OF MINE...
I CAN... FEEL THE UNIVERSE PULLING ME TOWARD A PURPOSE OF ITS OWN DESIGN.
I KNOW... TOO MANY THINGS. SOON I WILL OUTGROW THIS FORM...
...AND I GROW...
...HUNGRY.
SO DO WHAT YOU MUST. BUT AS ONE WHO HAS GAZED INTO IT AND YET LIVED...
...I KNOW BUT ONE THING ABOUT THE NATURE OF UNIVERSAL BALANCE.
YOU CANNOT DEFEAT THE DARK...
...WITH DARKNESS.
NO...

...NO, YOU CANNOT.
I AM NOT MY MAKER.
I AM NOT DEATH.
BUT AS I SET GALACTUS ON A COURSE THAT WILL BRING HIM, IN TIME, INTO THE ORBIT OF THE PLANET ARCHEOPIA...
...THE FIRST PLANET TO DIE IN MY MAKER'S WAKE...
...I AM, ONCE AGAIN...
...DAMNED.
AND DYING.
BUT NOT WITHOUT HOPE.
FOR IN MY TIME INSIDE THE MIND OF THE DEVOURER...

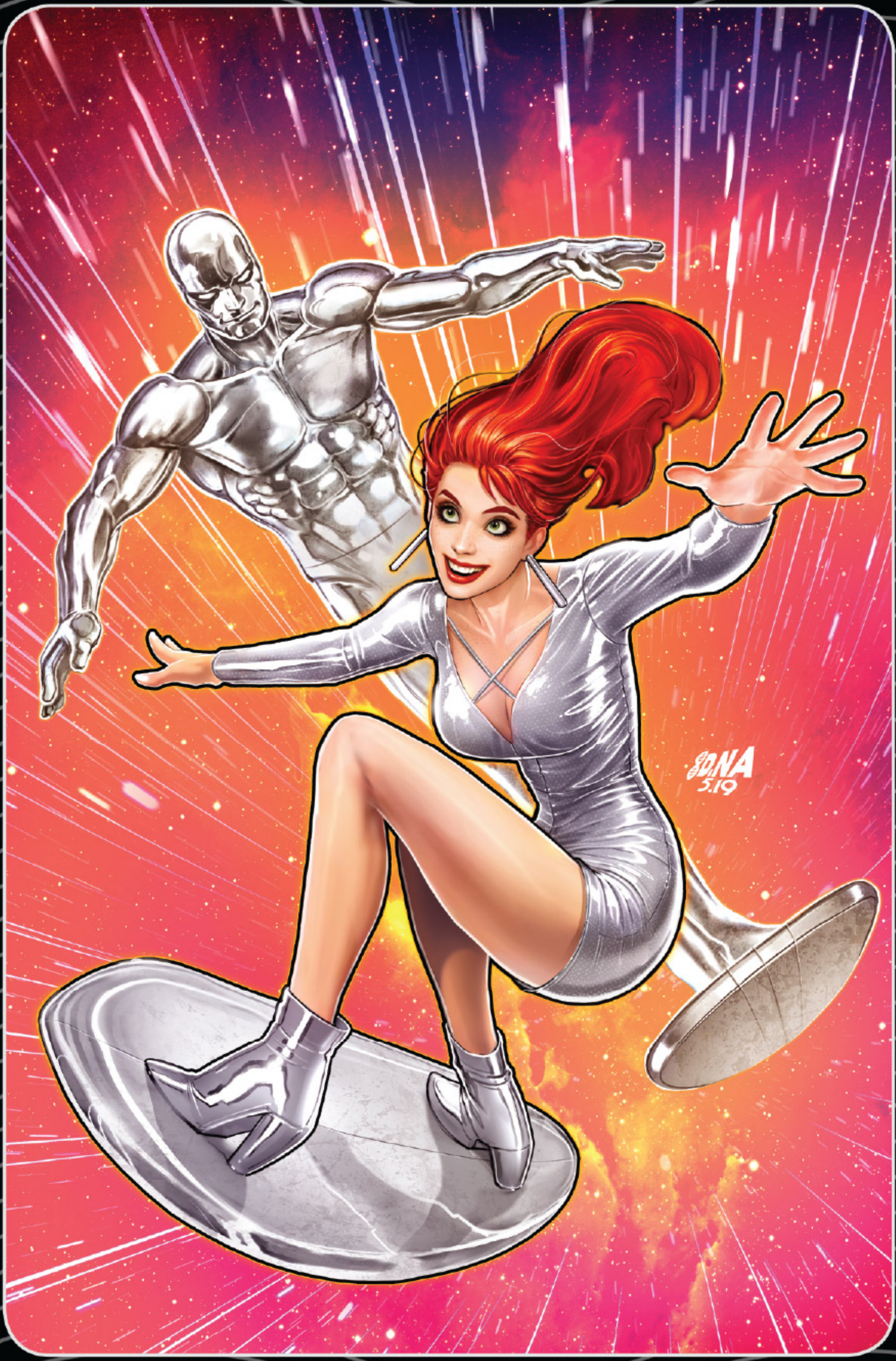
...I HAVE LEARNED WHAT I MUST DO.
NORRIN... YOU HAVE RETURNED...
I DO NOT HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN.
THE DARKNESS NIPS AT MY THROAT AS WE SPEAK.
I REQUIRE YOUR HELP.
READ MY MIND, EGO.
I WILL SHOW YOU.
...
NORRIN...
IS THIS...
ARE YOU SURE?

YES.
IT IS THE ONLY WAY TO WIN...
WHAT YOU ASK FOR...IT IS WITHIN MY POWERS. YOU WISH FOR ME TO COMMUNE ACROSS THE CELESTIAL PLAINS...CONNECT YOU WITH... EVERYTHING.
I DO. YES.
THEN REACH OUT WITH ME. TETHER YOUR MIND'S EYE TO MINE AND BEAR WITNESS, SURFER...
OPEN YOUR EYES AND GAZE INTO THE INFINITE.
I... I CAN SEE IT...
"ACROSS THE STARS...LIFE.
"ALL OF IT CONNECTED. I CAN FEEL THEM ALL.
"THEY SENSE THE GROWING BLACK AS I DO...AND...
"...THEY ARE ALL SO AFRAID.
"TELL THEM, EGO. TELL THEM WHAT I NEED FROM THEM."
TELL THEM TO SEED THEIR LIFE INTO THE ABYSS.
"CHOKE IT WITH THEIR LIGHT!
"NOW. FOCUS IT. CHANNEL IT...ALL OF IT...
...INTO ME.
IT IS DONE, NORRIN. YOU HAVE WHAT YOU NEED...BUT I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS IS... WHAT YOU HAVE MADE...
I HAVE WHAT I NEED TO END THIS.
I WILL NO LONGER CURSE THE DARKNESS, EGO...
THEN... WHAT WILL YOU DO?

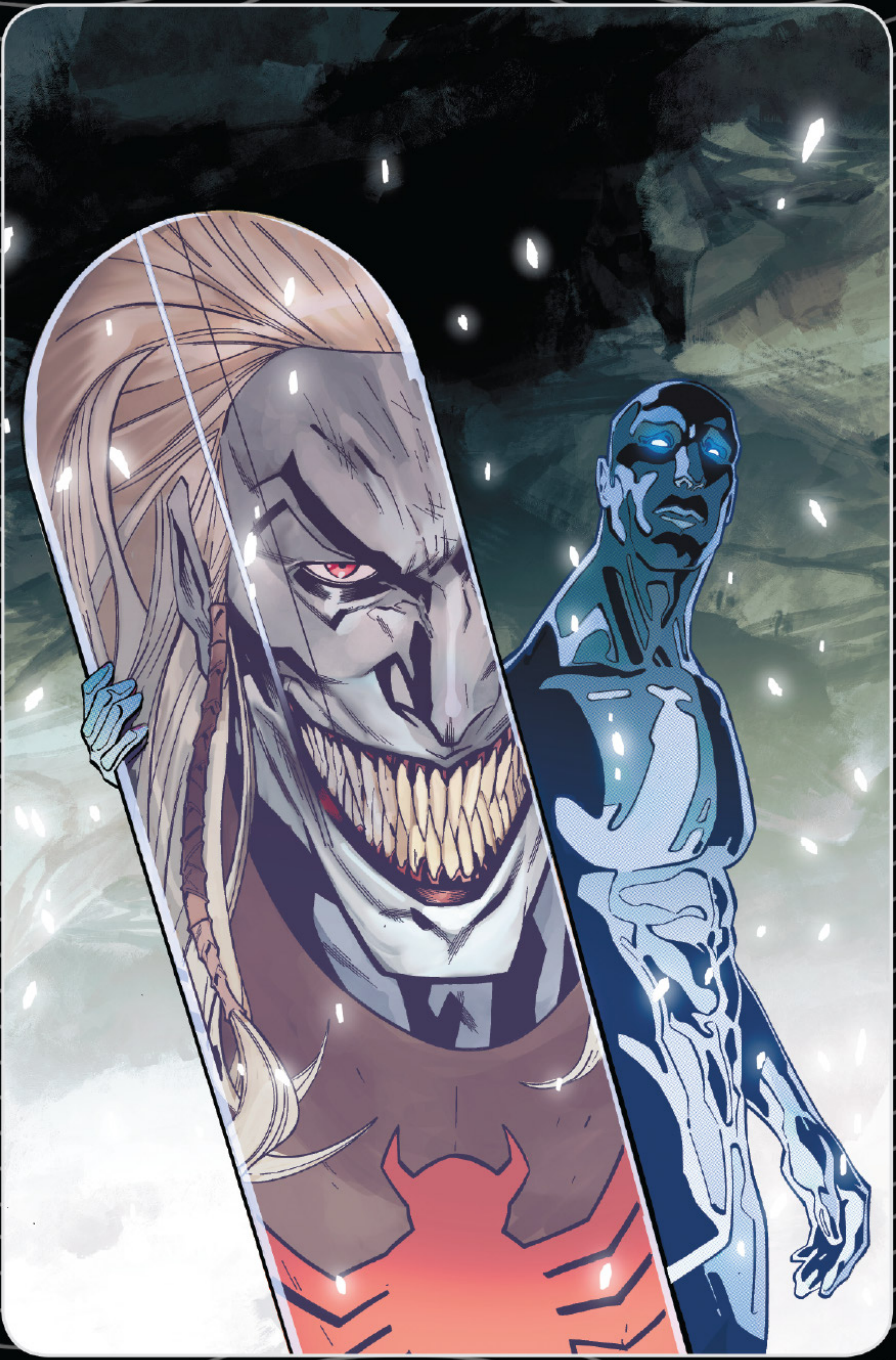
BURN.



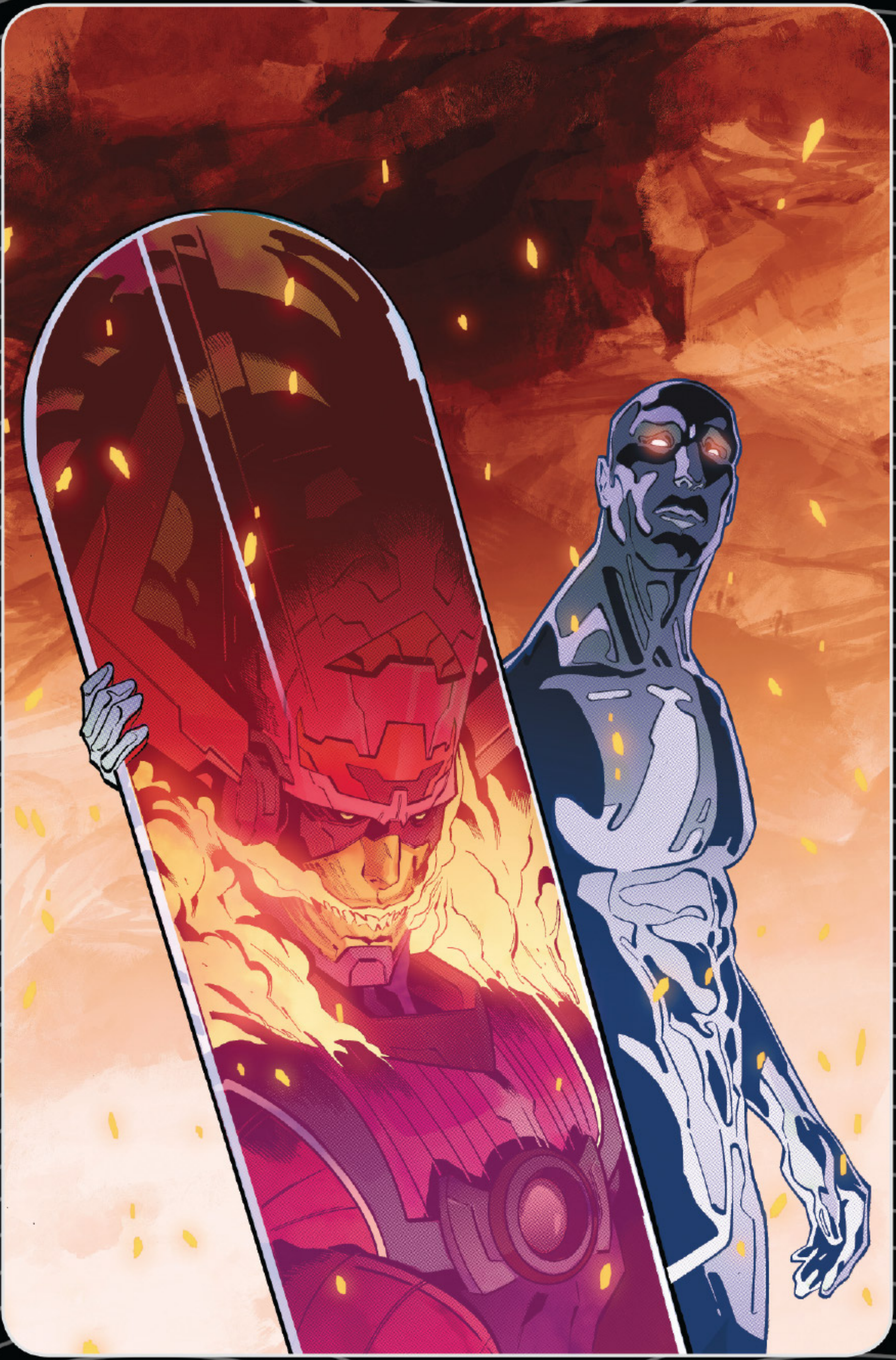
**PEACH MOMOKO**
#4 VARIANT



**DAVID NAKAYAMA**
#5 THE AMAZING MARY JANE VARIANT



**CIAN TORMEY & FEDERICO BLEE**
#5 VARIANT



**CIAN TORMEY & FEDERICO BLEE**
#5 FORESHADOW VARIANT

# FIVE

TRADD 6/19 +fs

I HAVE BECOME UNDONE.
MY SHELL DESTROYED. MY ATOMS COLLAPSED AND SCATTERED.
DISPERSED ACROSS THE GREAT BLACK KINGDOM LIKE PETALS ON THE WIND.
BUT I AM NOT BEATEN.
NOT DEFEATED.
NOT GONE.
NOT YET.

SLOWLY, I AM REMADE.
AND IN SO DOING...I...
...REMEMBER.
I WILL NOT BE DEVOURED BY THE BLACK.
SOMETHING HERE IS KILLING IN THE DARK.
FROM DARKNESS, LIGHT...
WITH LIGHT...
...A PRICE.
THE MEMORIES FLICKER IN MY MIND AS THE WOUNDS HEAL.
VOICES OF A LIFE I ONCE LIVED.
I HAVE SEEN SUCH WONDROUSLY HORRIBLE THINGS.
SO OFTEN THAT THEIR MEMORIES HAVE BECOME HAUNTINGLY COMMON.
DARKNESS IS THE BEGINNING.

LIVES UPON LIVES.
HORROR AND BEAUTY INTERLACE AND EXPLODE IN MY MIND'S EYE AS I AM REBORN IN THE DARK.
YOU REALLY WANT TO BRING A CHILD INTO THIS?
THE WORLD...IT'S SO *DARK...*
THEN LET'S MAKE A LIGHT.
I WAS... A MAN...
NORRIN. NORRIN RADD.
BUT THEN SOMETHING ELSE...
A DESTROYER?
THERE ARE MANY LIVES, NORRIN. EVERY ACTION MAKES BRANCHES OF REALITIES. POSSIBLE UNIVERSES.
IN ONE, YOU DIE ALONE ON ZENN-LA.
I DON'T KNOW...
...HOW TO WIN.
YOU WOULD KILL LIGHT TO BEAT THE DARK...
NO.
I REMEMBER.

now.
I AM NOT MY MAKER.
I AM NOT DEATH.
NOT TODAY.

KNULL, THE GOD OF THE DARK, HAS ARRIVED ON THE INFANT EGO.
AND I...I AM DYING. I AM WEAK. MY COSMIC SHELL BROKEN AND SPILLING INTO THE BLACK.
THERE IS NO MORE RUNNING.
THERE IS NO MORE AVOIDING WHAT MUST BE DONE.
STILL, AS EVER, THERE IS HOPE....
EGO, NOW!
...I NEVER FIGHT ALONE.
GLADLY.
RAGHH!
AGH!

THE POWER IN MY CHEST GROWS HOT AS THE FINAL BATTLE BEGINS.
BEGGING ME TO UNLEASH ITS WRATH UPON THIS LORD OF THE ABYSS.
BUT I WILL NOT GIVE IN.
I WILL NOT KILL THE LIGHT TO BEAT THE DARK.
MY FORM UNFURLS AS THE FIGHT RAGES ON.
MY POWER COSMIC DRAINS WITH EACH BLOW GIVEN AND TAKEN.
I WILL NOT WIN THIS DAY.
BUT I WILL NOT LOSE MYSELF TO THE DARK.
YOU WILL JOIN ME, LITTLE LIGHT! I WILL HAVE YOU!
KNULL...
...I ASSURE YOU...
IF KNULL WANTS ME TO BOW TO HIM...
...YOU ARE MISTAKEN.
...TO SEE ME BECOME A KNIGHT IN HIS ARMY...
BOARD!
...THEN I WILL SHOW HIM.
TO ME.
...I WILL SHOW HIM A KNIGHT.
SHALL WE?

A SWORD OF DARKNESS.
ALL-BLACK, THE NECROBLADE.
WIELDED BY ITS CREATOR. THE LORD OF THE GREAT UNENDING ABYSS.
AND A SWORD OF LIGHT.
A SILVER BLADE OF COSMIC POWER.
MADE OF ITS CREATOR'S BROKEN, LIVING FLESH.
THE SOUND THEY MAKE AS THEY CLASH WOULD DEAFEN A GOD.
IN MY FURY, I FORGET MYSELF.
AAGH!!!
WHA--
I FORGET THAT MY OPPONENT IS MANY.
THAT HIS HORDE IS EVERYWHERE.
THAT!
AGH, NO!
IS ENOUGH!!!
THE DARKNESS FILLS MY LUNGS.
DROWNING IN THE SHADOWS...
...OF THE KING IN BLACK.

ALAS, I KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE. BUT IN SO DOING...I KNOW...
...IT WILL BE MY END.
STOP IT.
FOR A MOMENT, I FALTER...
STOP STRUGGLING.
STOP FIGHTING THIS.
BUT THEN...
...I HEAR IT. STRONG AND SURE IN MY MIND.
A VOICE I HAD THOUGHT GONE.
IT'S OVER. IT ENDS NOW.
YOUR LIGHT...IS MINE.
"IF WE TURN FROM BATTLE," IT SAYS...
GOOD.
TAKE IT.
..."BECAUSE THERE IS LITTLE HOPE OF VICTORY...
AGHHHHH!

"...WHERE THEN WOULD VALOR BE?"
OOOOOOOOOOOOMM

I SPOKE THOSE WORDS WHAT SEEMS LIKE A MILLENNIA AGO.
BUT WHAT I FACED THEN IS NOT WHAT I FACE NOW.
AGGH!
AND WHILE THE SENTIMENT REMAINS TRUE, THE BATTLE...
THE BATTLE NEVER ENDS.
I KNOW THAT I CANNOT STOP KNULL.
THAT THE INFANT SUN I HAVE BIRTHED WITH THE LAST OF MY COSMIC POWER WILL NOT KILL HIM.
NO... HE WILL RETURN.
I KNOW THAT I CANNOT DEFEAT THE DARKNESS.
BOOM
NOT FOREVER.
AND SO...
...I DO WHAT I DO NOW...
...NOT TO WIN...

...BUT...TO BALANCE.
THE WEAPON I RETRIEVED FROM EGO WAS NEVER DESIGNED FOR WAR.
OR FOR HARM.
IT IS NOT LIKE ME. OR MY CREATOR.
NOT A DESTROYER. OR A STONE-FACED WITNESS OF HORROR.
IT IS THE LIGHT THAT WILL BURN THOSE SHADOWS AWAY.
MY LEGACY. THE INFANT LIFE OF THE UNIVERSE, FORGED INTO ***GALACTIC SEEDS.***
DRAWN FROM THE STAR STUFF OF A BILLION TERRIFIED WORLDS BY EGO'S PSYCHIC CALL.
FOR HERE ON THIS NAMELESS BARREN PLANET...
...IS THE TRUTH.
OF EVERYTHING.
YOUR PAST CANNOT BE CHANGED.
YOUR SHADOW... CANNOT BE ERASED.
YOU CANNOT DEFEAT THE DARK.

BUT YOU *CAN* FIND THE LIGHT INSIDE OF YOU.
PROTECT IT. KEEP IT FROM HARM.
CARE FOR IT. FOR IT WILL BE FRAGILE.
AND THEN, WHEN IT IS STRONG...
...SHARE IT. GIVE IT AWAY.
SHINE IT DOWN UPON THOSE STILL TRAPPED IN THE SHADOWS.
AND IN TIME... PERHAPS...
...THE BRILLIANCE OF YOUR LIGHT WILL OUTSHINE THE VOID WITHIN.

AND.
THERE.
BATHED.
IN.
FLAME.
THERE YOU ARE...
YOU.
WILL.
BE...
ZENN-LA.

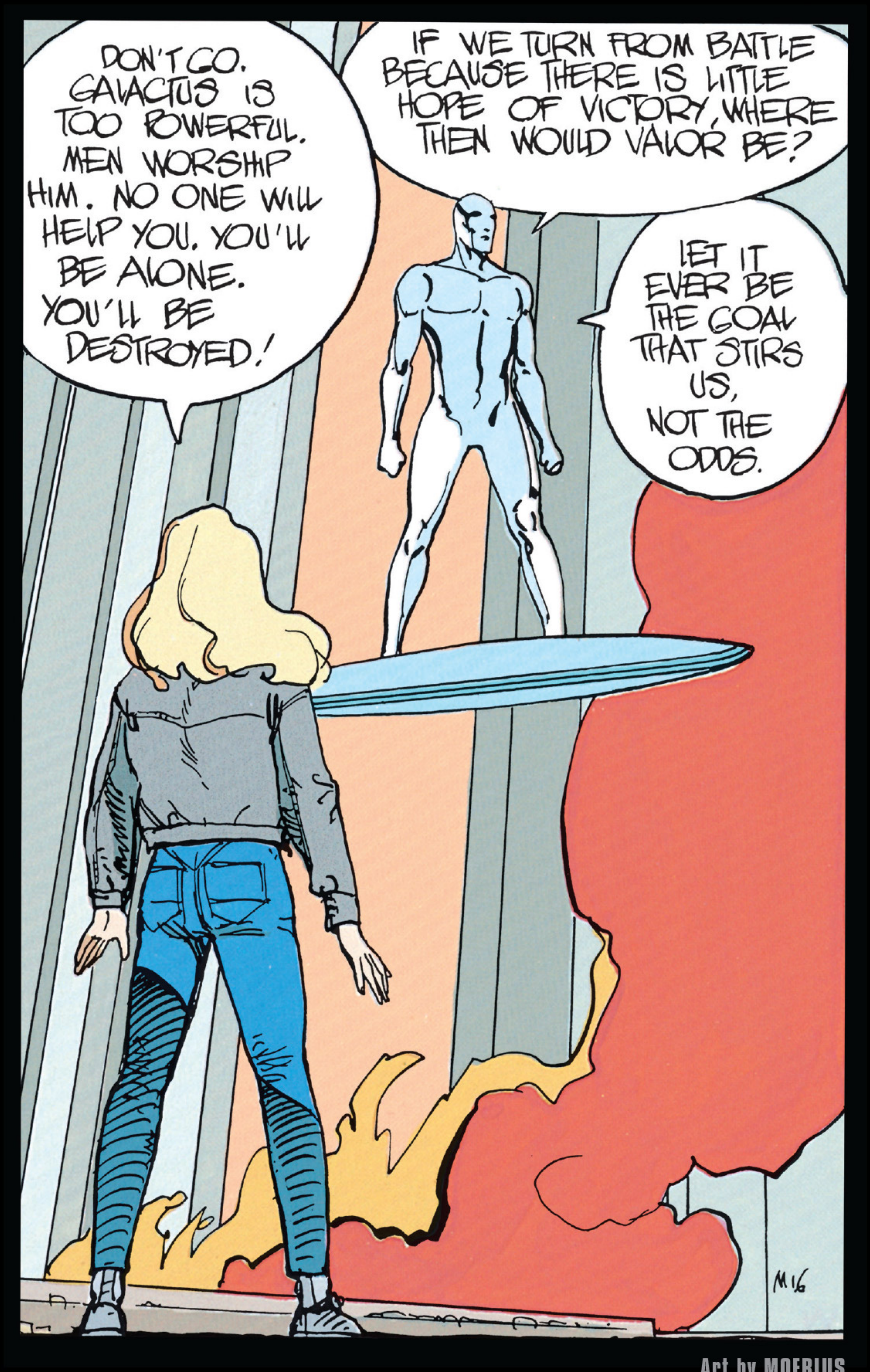
...FORGIVEN.

AND THEN...
...FROM DEATH...
...LIFE.
OVER EONS...MY ATOMS FALL LIKE SEEDS ACROSS THE GALAXY.
GIVING LIFE TO THOSE PLANETS I WATCHED DIE.

MY CONSCIOUSNESS SCATTERED...I AM AWARE OF THEIR MIGHTY BREATH GIVING CHASE TO THE WINDS OF INFINITY.
I WATCH AS THE ICE GIANT ***MASSIKRON*** FORMS AROUND THE TINIEST FLICKERING HEAT OF MY DYING FORM.
I HEAR...NO...I SENSE...IN THE THING I ONCE WAS...THE LOWING CREATION HOWLS OF ***ELYNORE-143.***
ITS BEAUTIFUL BIRTH INTO A WORLD THAT DOES NOT DESERVE ITS SONGS.
IN THE BLACKEST REALMS OF A SECTOR UNNAMED, I FEEL THE CREATION MYTHS STRINGING TOGETHER ON A WORLD THAT WILL BE ***DRAVEN-BARR.***
UNDERSTANDING AT LAST...WHY THEY WORSHIPPED A SILVER GOD.
OVER AND OVER...WORLD ACROSS WORLD...
...I HAVE BECOME SUCH WONDROUS THINGS.

AND THEN, AS THESE PLANETS BLOSSOM BACK INTO THE BLACK...AS THEY EMERGE AND SEED BACK INTO THE GREAT ABYSS...
...SLOWLY... OVER ENDLESS MILLENNIA...
...I AM REMADE.
AND IN SO DOING...
...I REMEMBER WHO I AM.
WHO I HAVE BECOME.
I AM NORRIN RADD.
CREATOR AND ORPHAN SON OF ZENN-LA.
I AM A NOBLE LIGHT IN GREAT UNENDING DARKNESS.
I AM A FRIEND.
AN ALLY.
A LOVER.
TO MOST, A SAVIOR.
I AM KNOWN BY MANY, UNIVERSE-WIDE, AS THE SILVER SURFER.
THE SENTINEL OF THE SPACEWAYS.
THE HERALD UNCHAINED.
BUT NOT DEATH. NO LONGER THAT.
THE DARKNESS I HAVE GIVEN, NOW...BALANCED WITH THE LIGHT I HAVE SHARED.
AND SO NOW...
...MY HANDS NO LONGER DRENCHED IN RED...

...I RETURN...
...IN THE BLACK.
THE END.


DON'T GO. GALACTUS IS TOO POWERFUL. MEN WORSHIP HIM. NO ONE WILL HELP YOU. YOU'LL BE ALONE. YOU'LL BE DESTROYED!
IF WE TURN FROM BATTLE BECAUSE THERE IS LITTLE HOPE OF VICTORY, WHERE THEN WOULD VALOR BE?
LET IT EVER BE THE GOAL THAT STIRS US, NOT THE ODDS.
M'6

Art by **MOEBIUS**

FOR STAN.

Hey, True Believers,

Donny here. I just wanted to take a moment and thank you all for reading this issue. Of all of the works I've been fortunate to write for the House of Ideas over the years, this one will always hold a very special place in my heart.

One, because I get to work with one of my dearest and oldest friends in the industry, Tradd Moore. I've known Tradd since 2009 when we were both students at the Savannah College of Art and Design. He was that good then too. Believe me. I also met Geoff Shaw there. The fact that I'm doing a Silver Surfer book with my friend Tradd that spins out of a Guardians of the Galaxy book that I'm doing with my friend Geoff is an embarrassment of fortunes and luck that will never make sense to this kid over here.

So for that, this book is fun and awesome. And an absolute gift. As you can see, Tradd is drawing his heart out. And to have DAVE FREAKING STEWART color it? Ugh. How did I get so lucky?

But what makes it special to me, what makes it more than a dream come true to work with my friends, is what happened after I began writing it.

I was sitting in an airport in Memphis, writing this very issue, coming home from a con when I learned that Stan Lee had passed away.

I closed my laptop, and like many others that day, I cried. And then I opened it back up, and I deleted everything I had written, and I began again. This issue had to be perfect. It had to mean something.

For him. For Stan.

Stan long said that the Surfer was his favorite of all his creations, and if I was going to shepherd in the first Surfer series to exist without him on this Earth, I was going to make sure it burned so bright that he could see it from his great cosmic chair looking down on us mere mortals.

I only met Stan a handful of times. But I'll leave you with the first and most memorable one.

It was my first San Diego Comic-Con; I was a kid. I had heard that Stan was going to be there, so as soon as the doors opened, I RAN to the Marvel booth to see his signing times and schedule. I arrived to find a huge amount of people in line to enter a lottery to get his autograph. I entered it and later that day returned to learn that I was one of a very select few to win.

I lined up with everyone else to get my book signed. I had in my hands the first issue of X-MEN from 1963 (yeah, be jealous, it's rad) for him to sign, and when I got up to meet him, I was a mess.

Shaking, I told him that I could never thank him enough for everything he had done for comics and for me. Stan looked up at me, smiled and without missing a beat said:

"Well, sure you can! Try!"

...

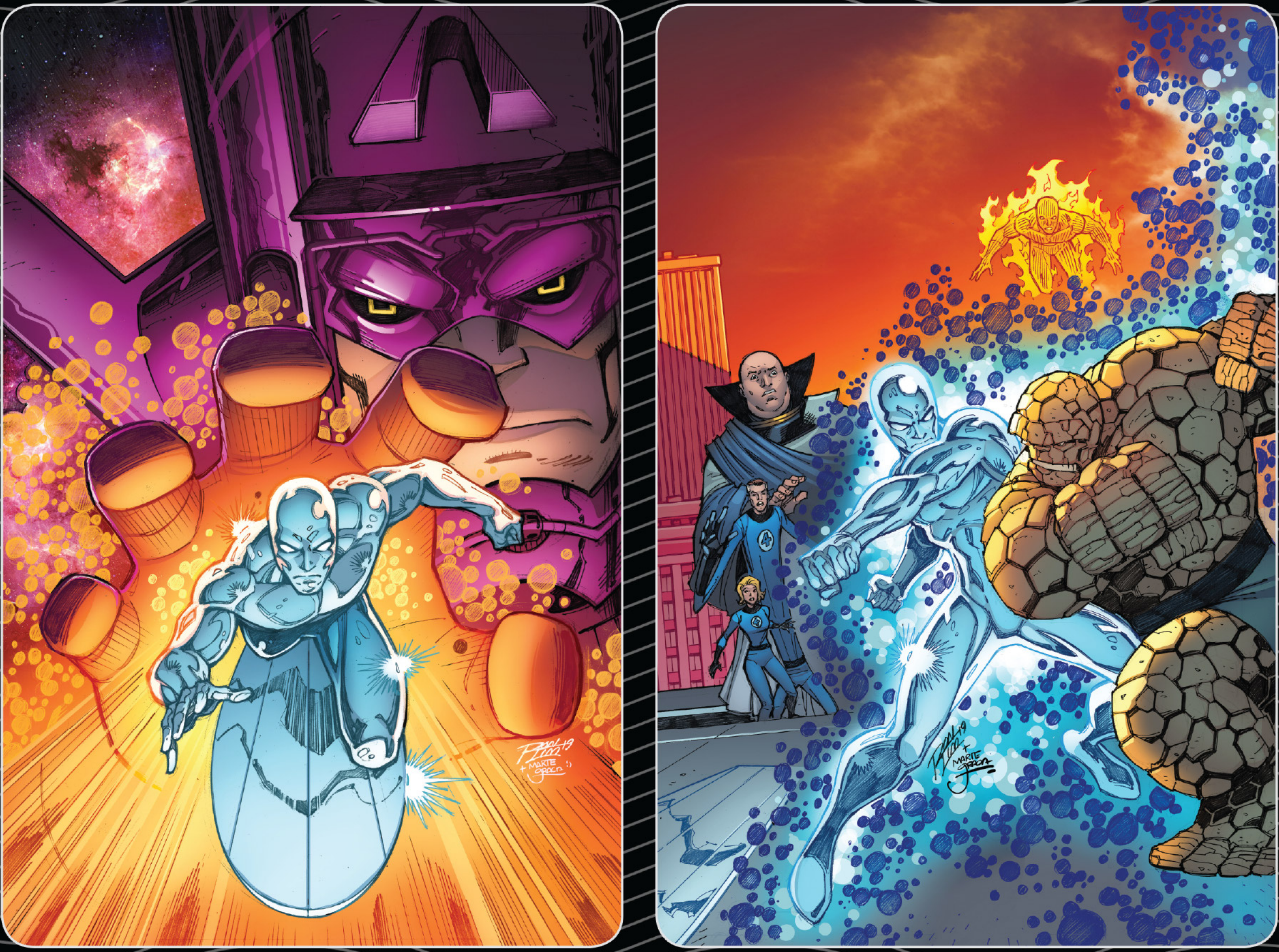
I couldn't then, Stan.

But I think, I hope, I can show you now.

This one is for you, Boss.

Thank you. From all of us. For everything.

**Donny Cates**
Austin, Texas



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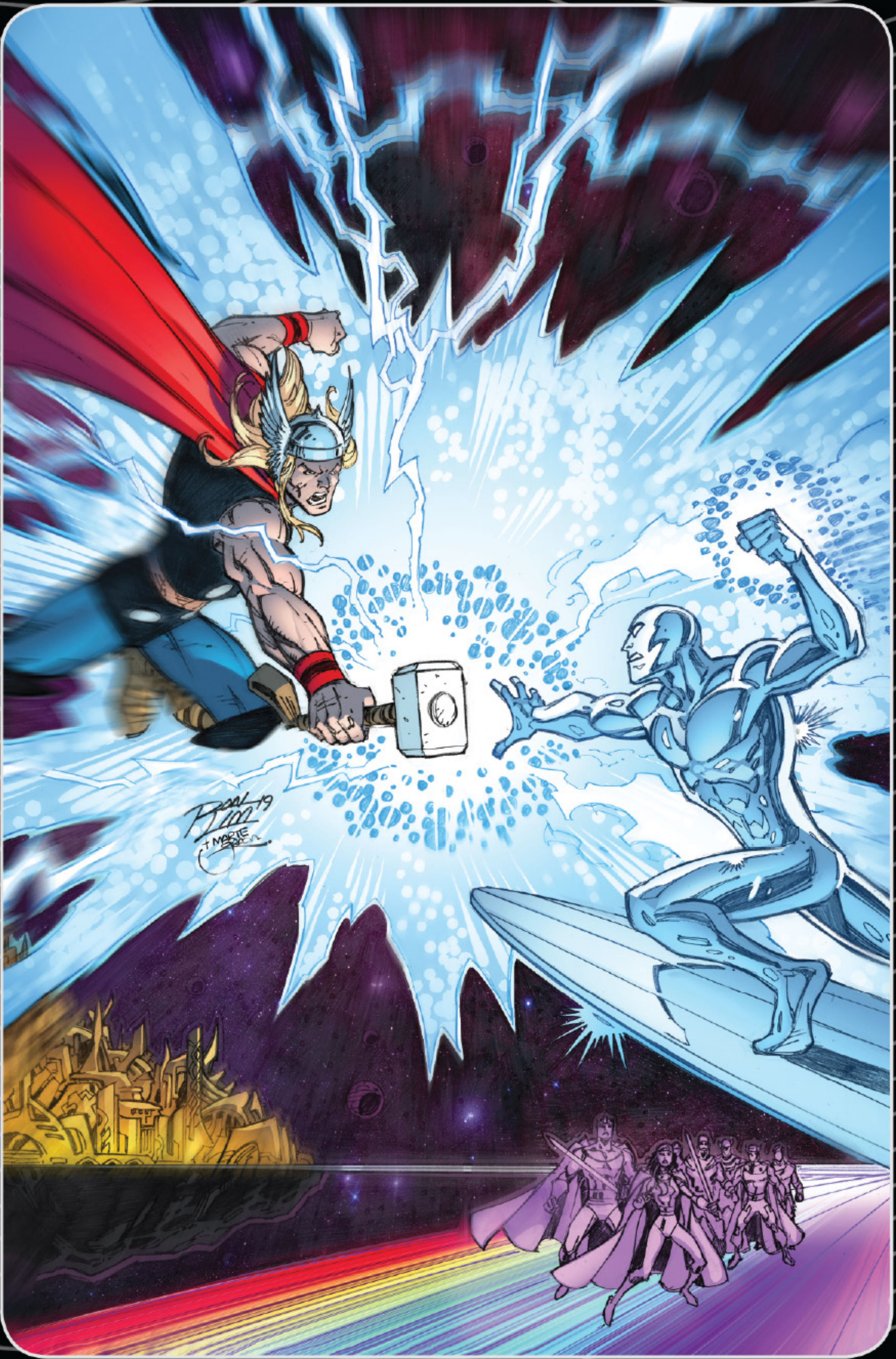

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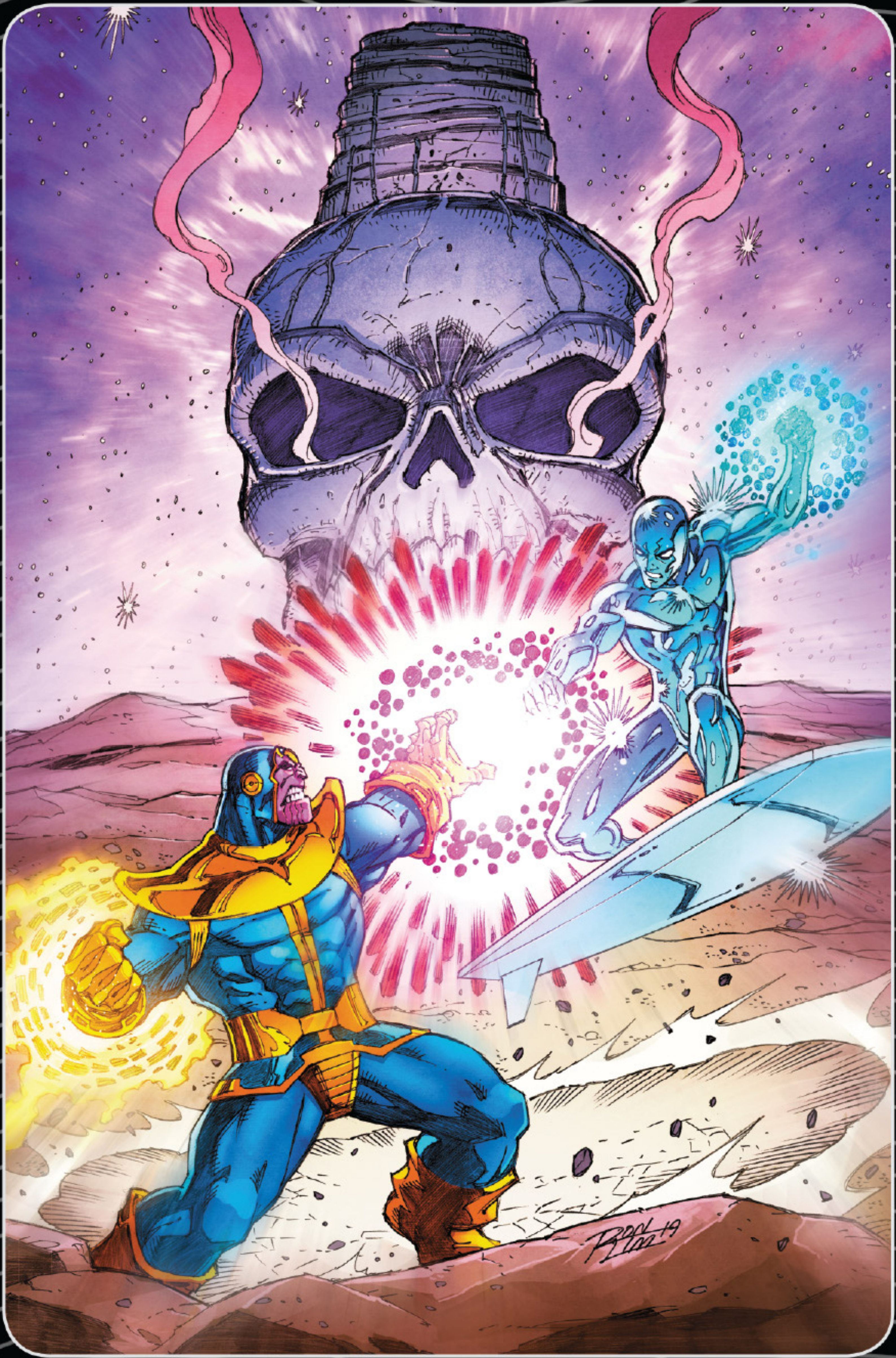

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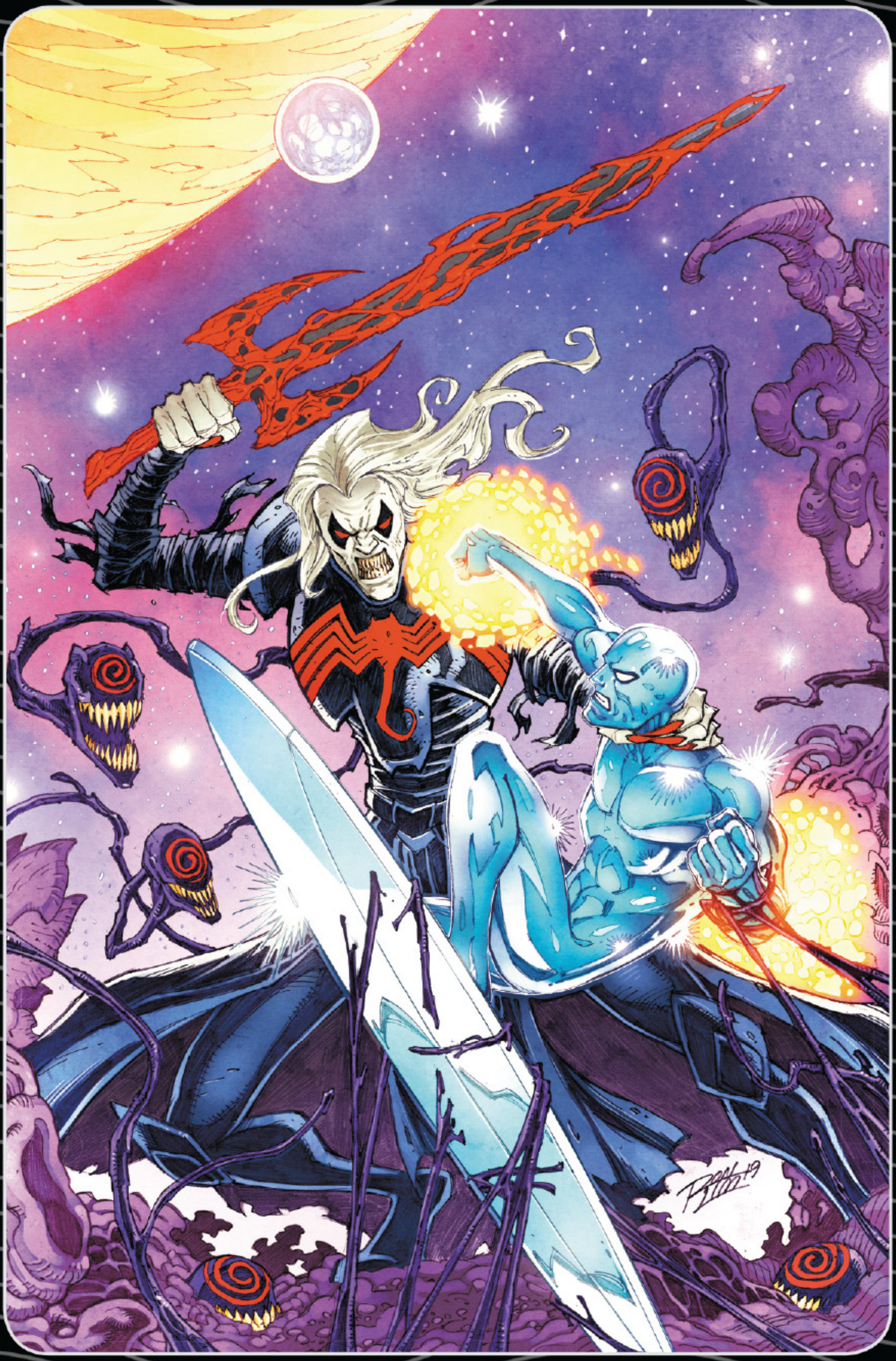

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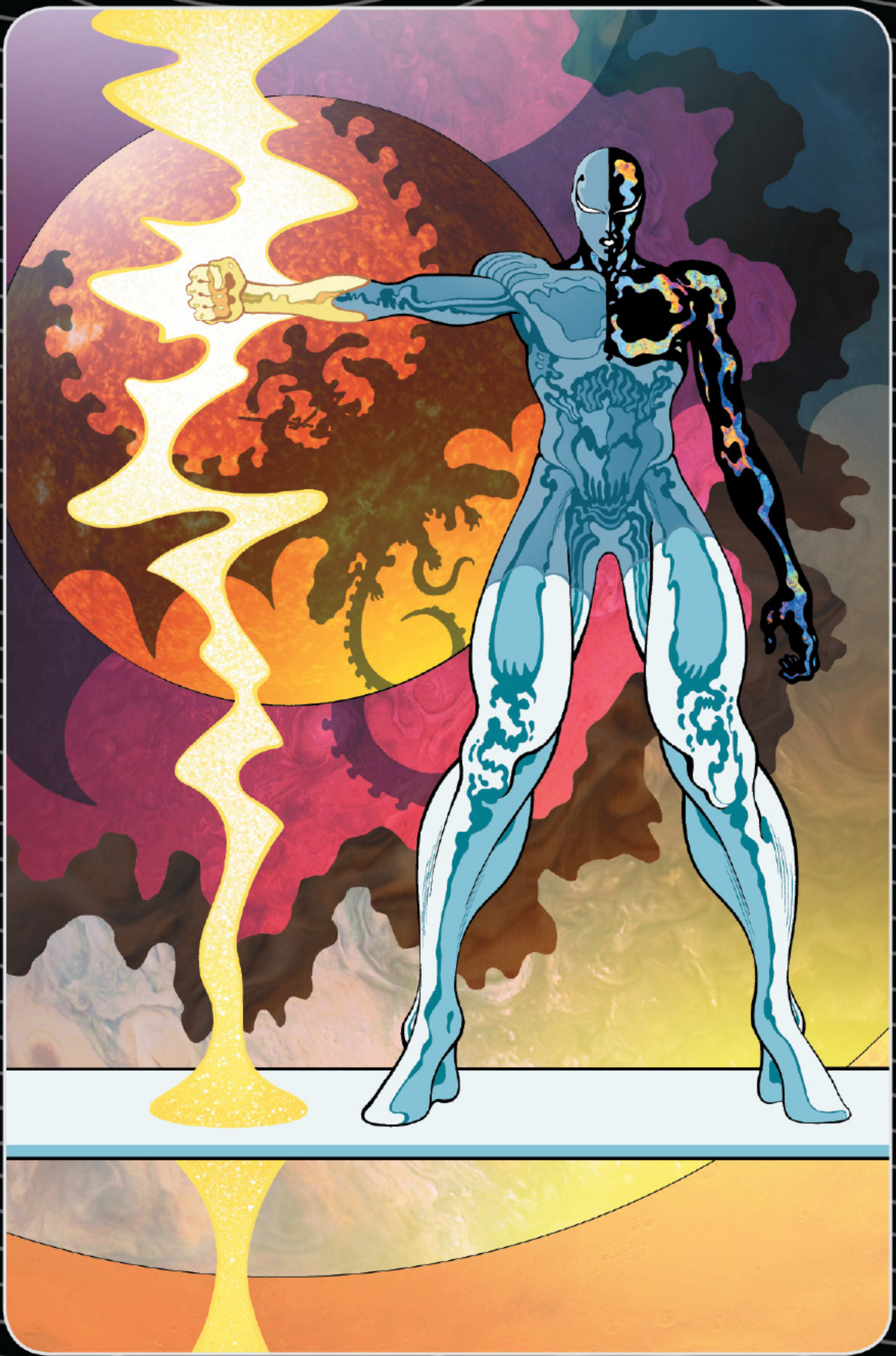
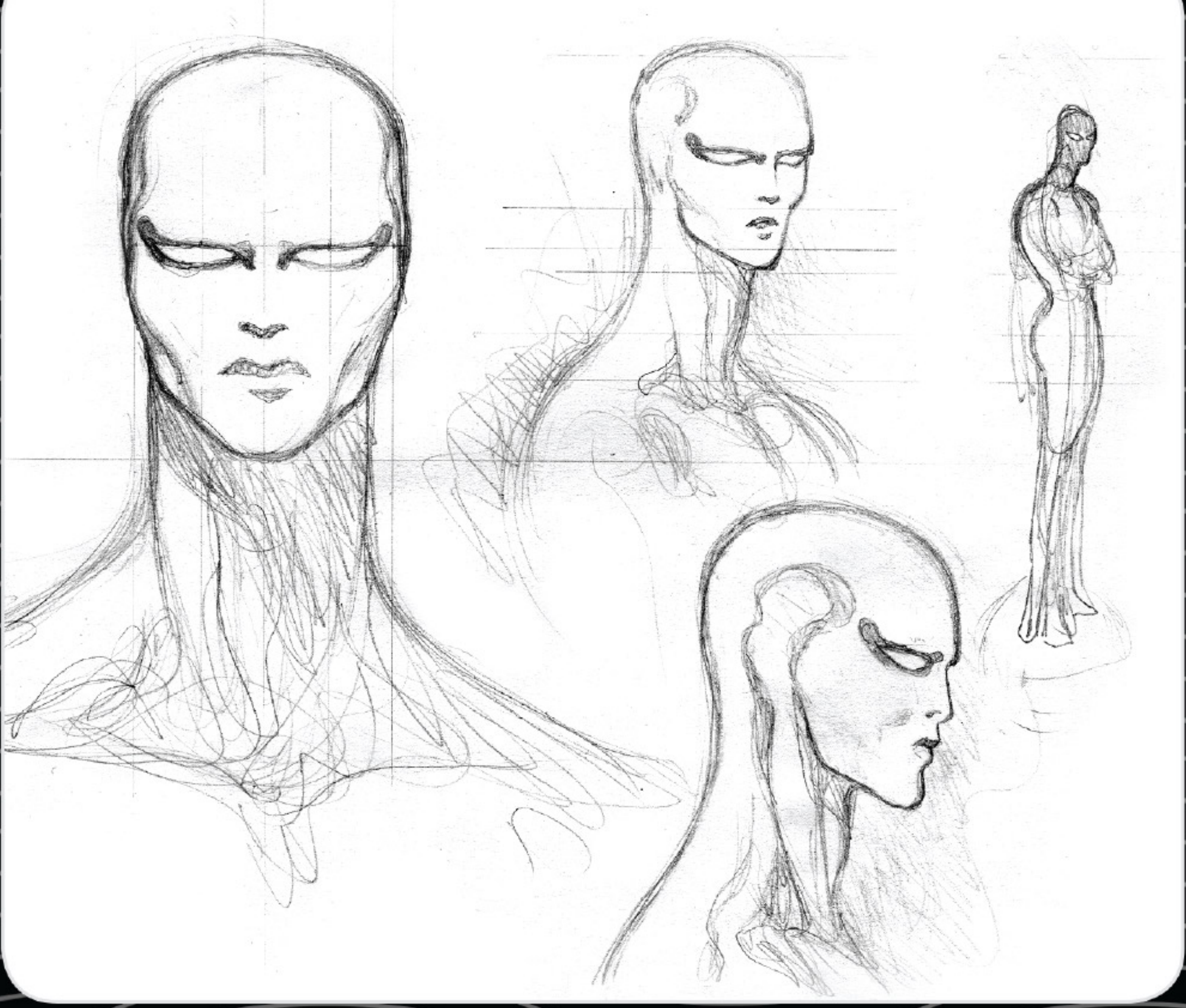
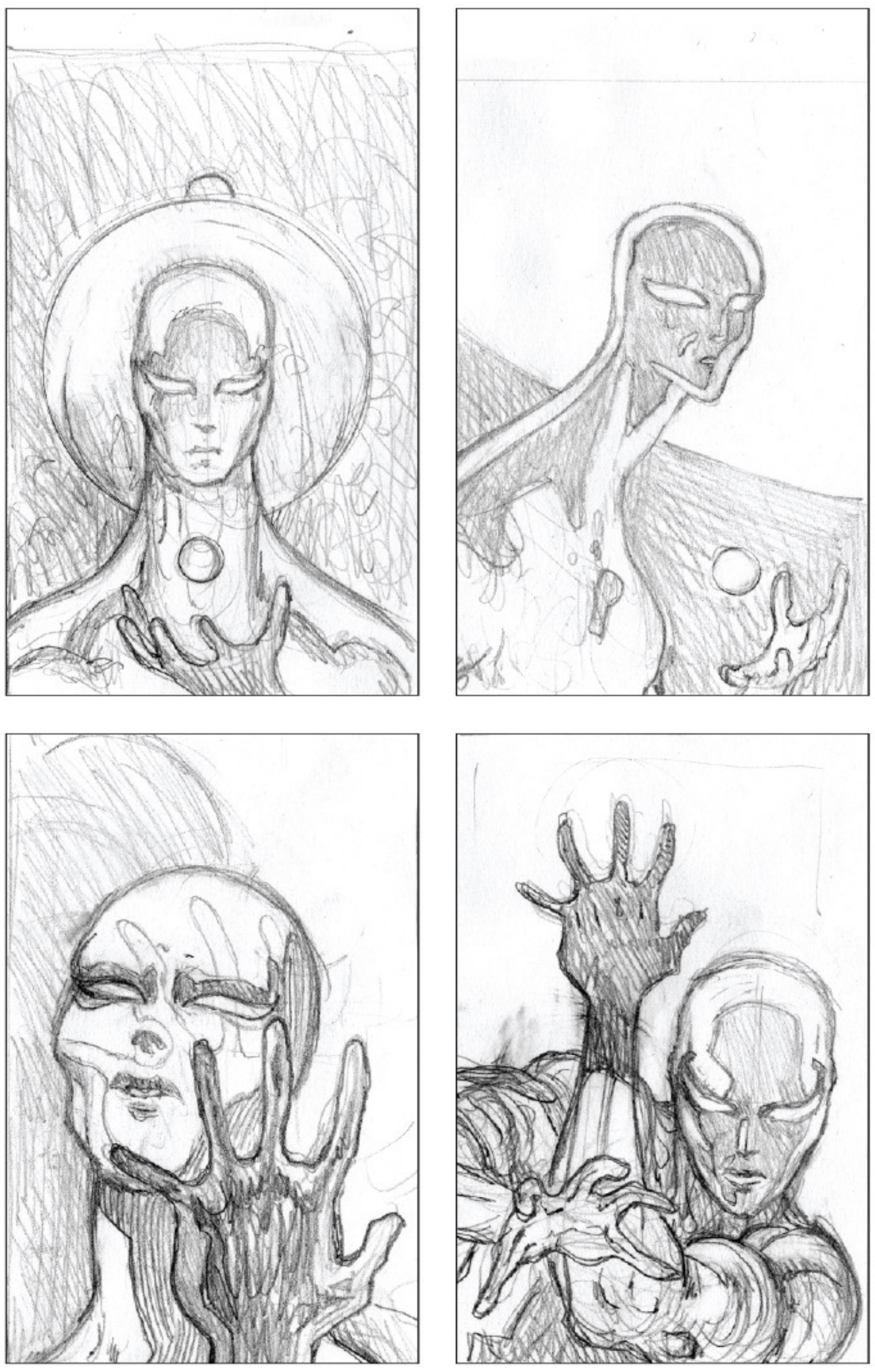


**TRADD MOORE & FELIPE SOBREIRO**
#3 2ND-PRINTING VARIANT

## CHARACTER AND COVER SKETCHES BY
**TRADD MOORE**





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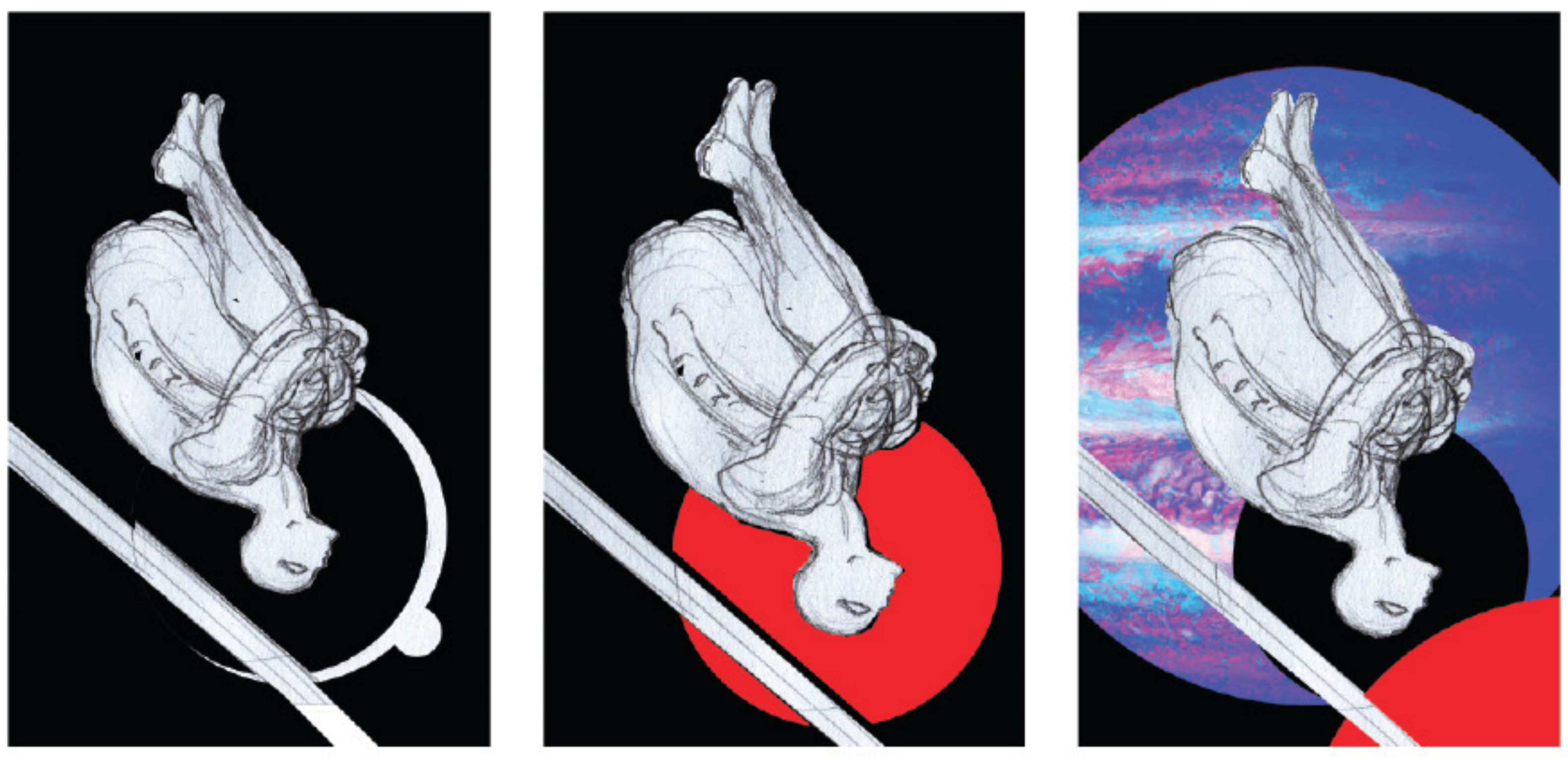

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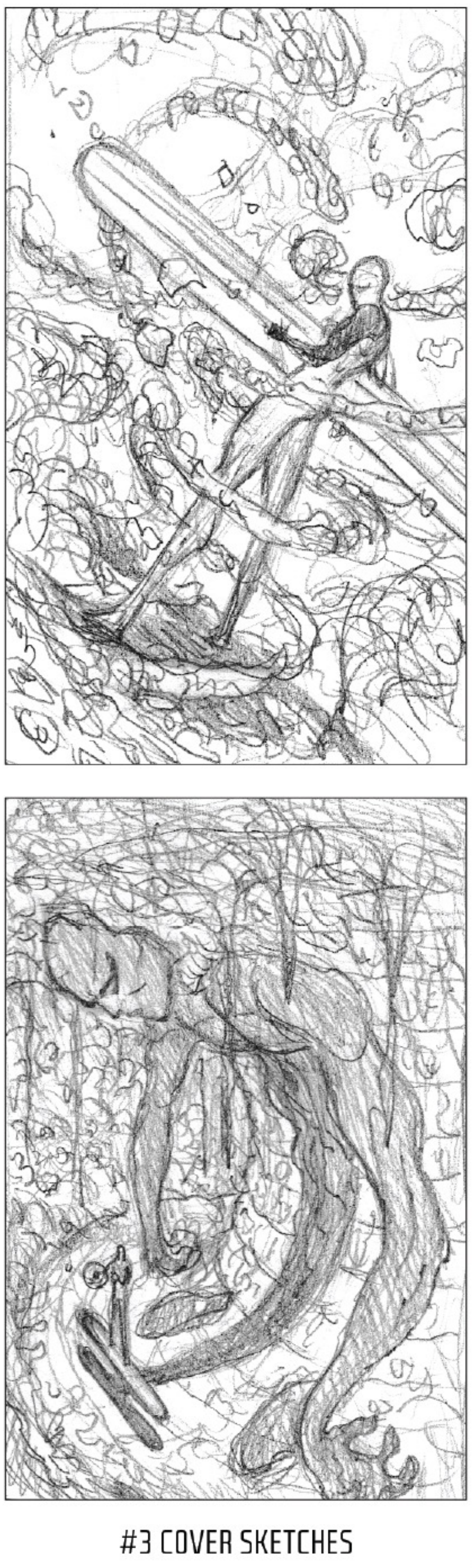

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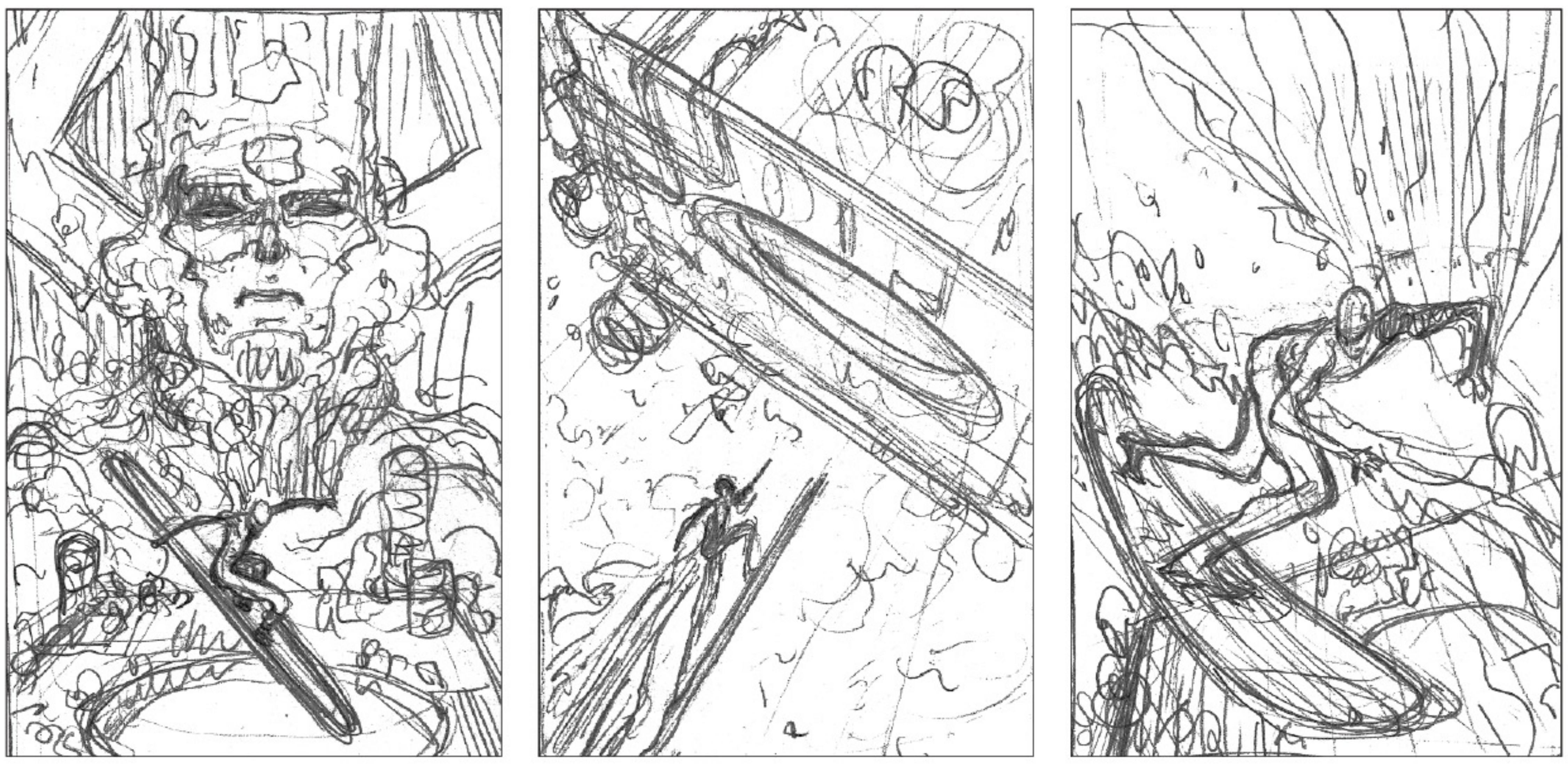

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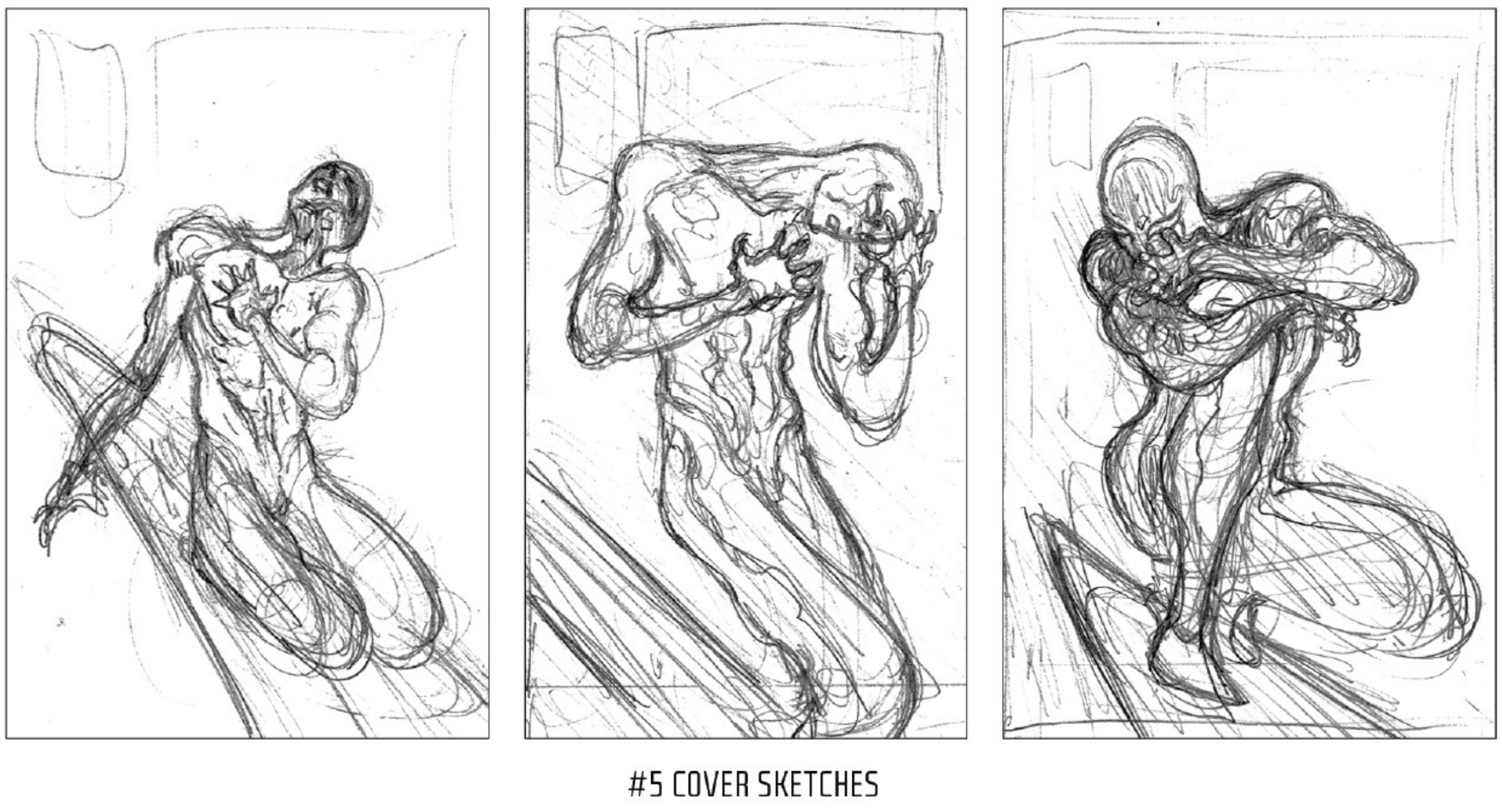

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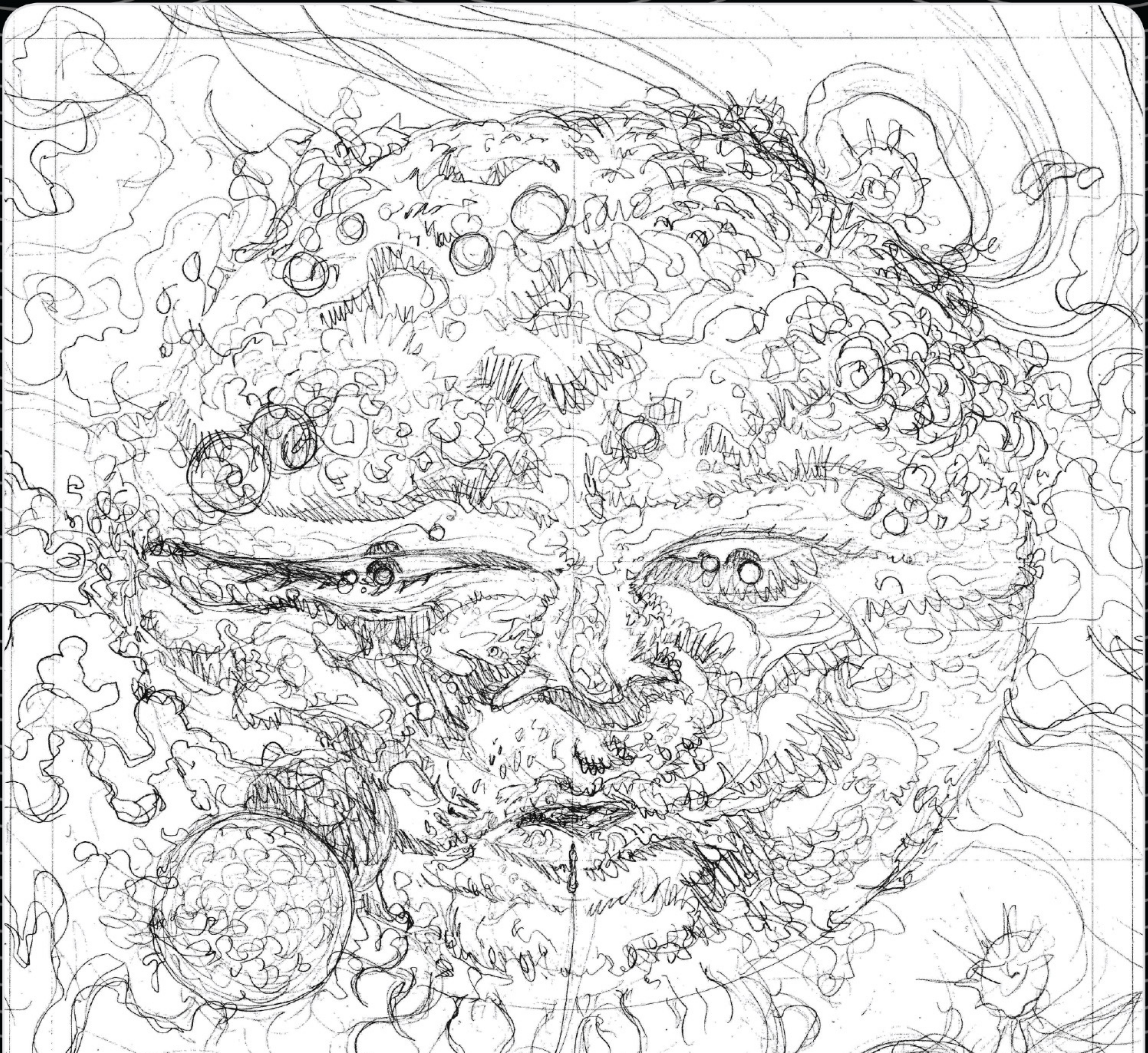
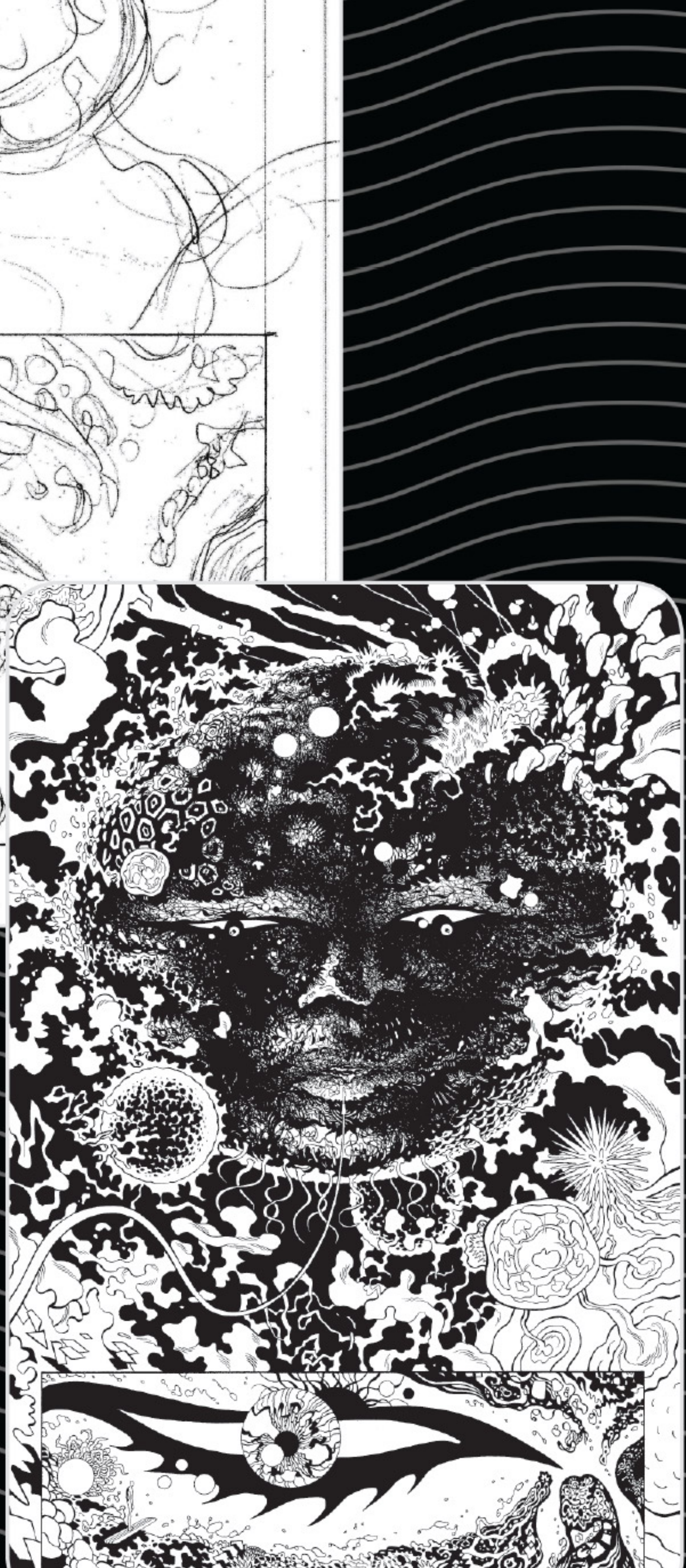
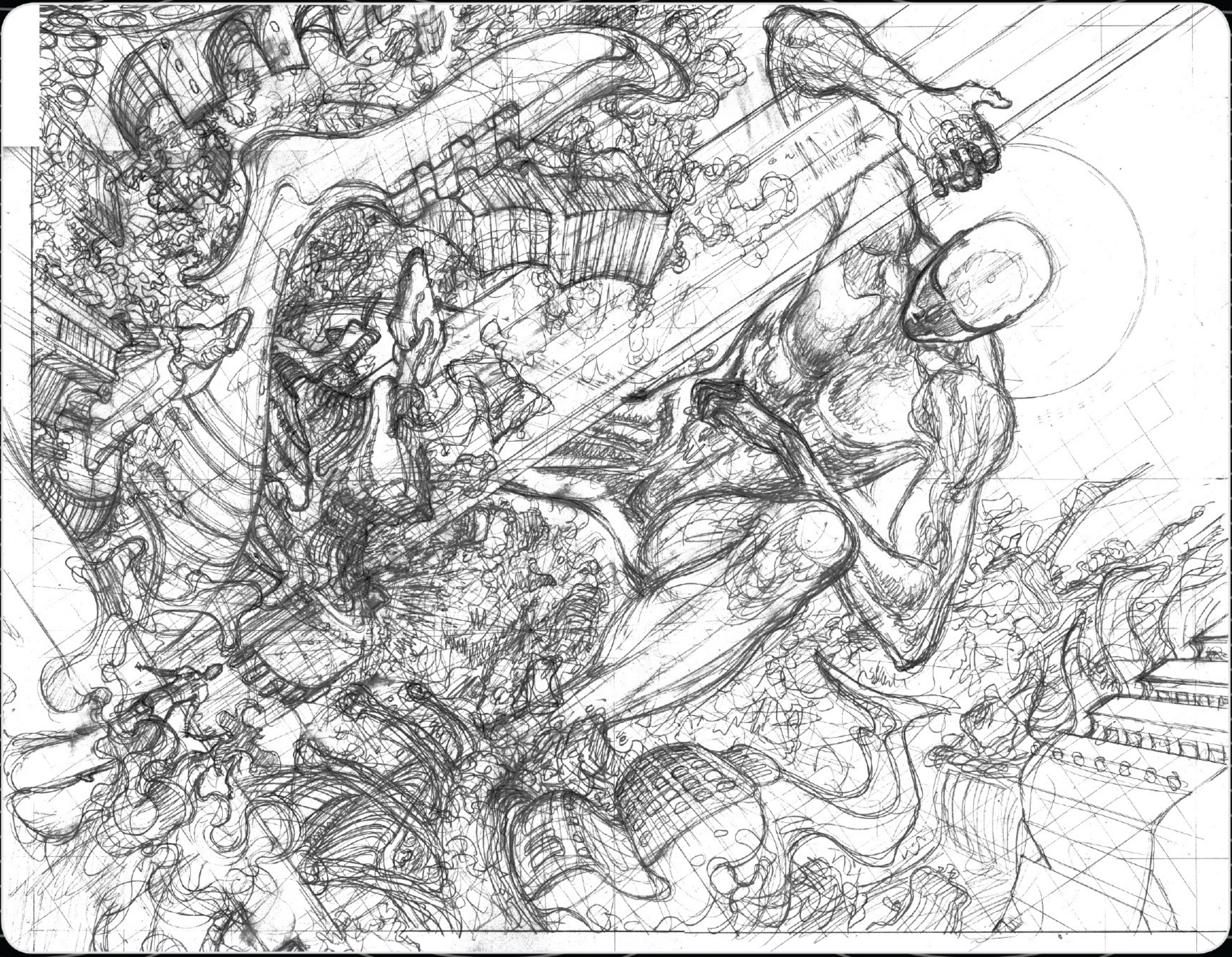
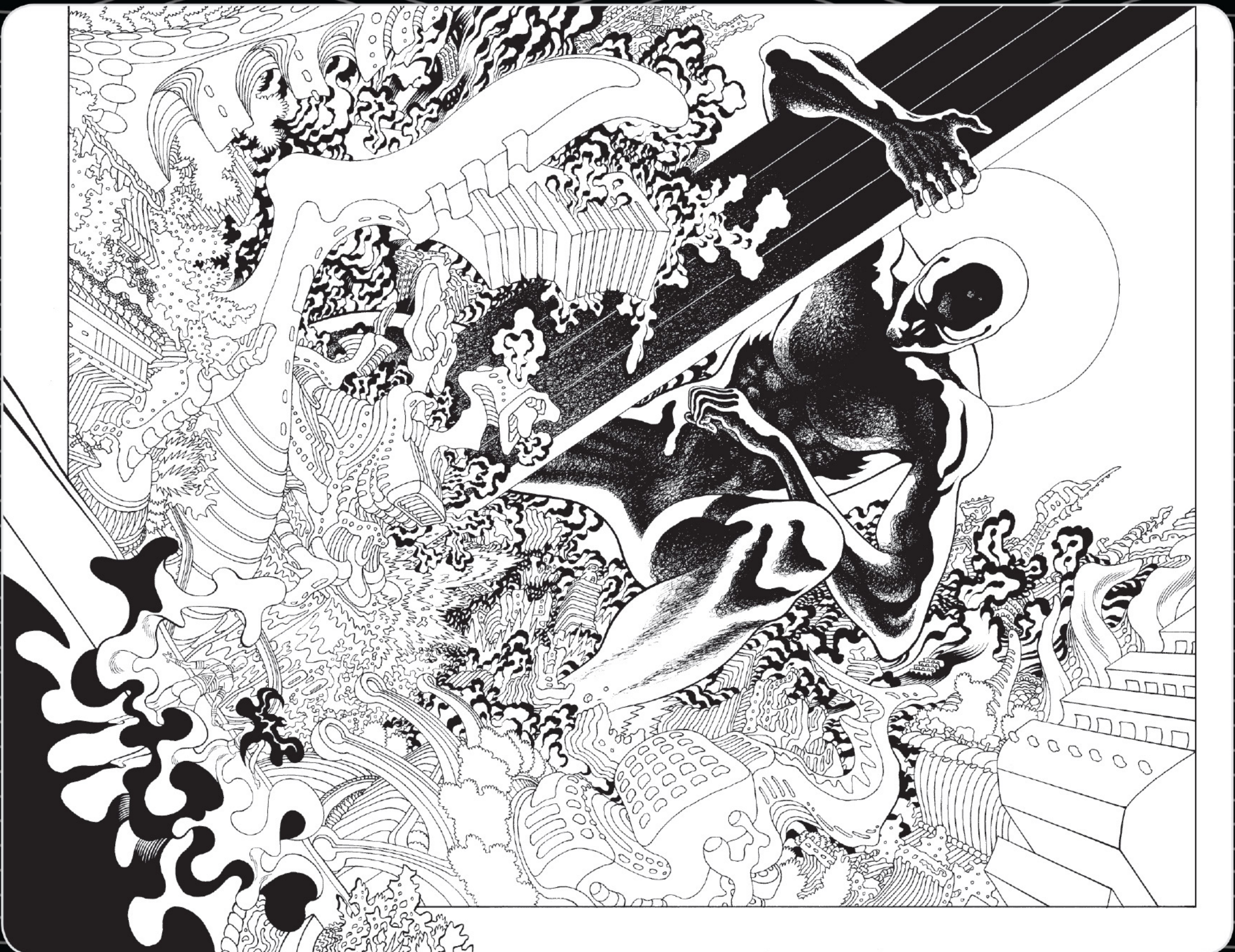




#2, PAGE 20 ROUGH & FINAL ART

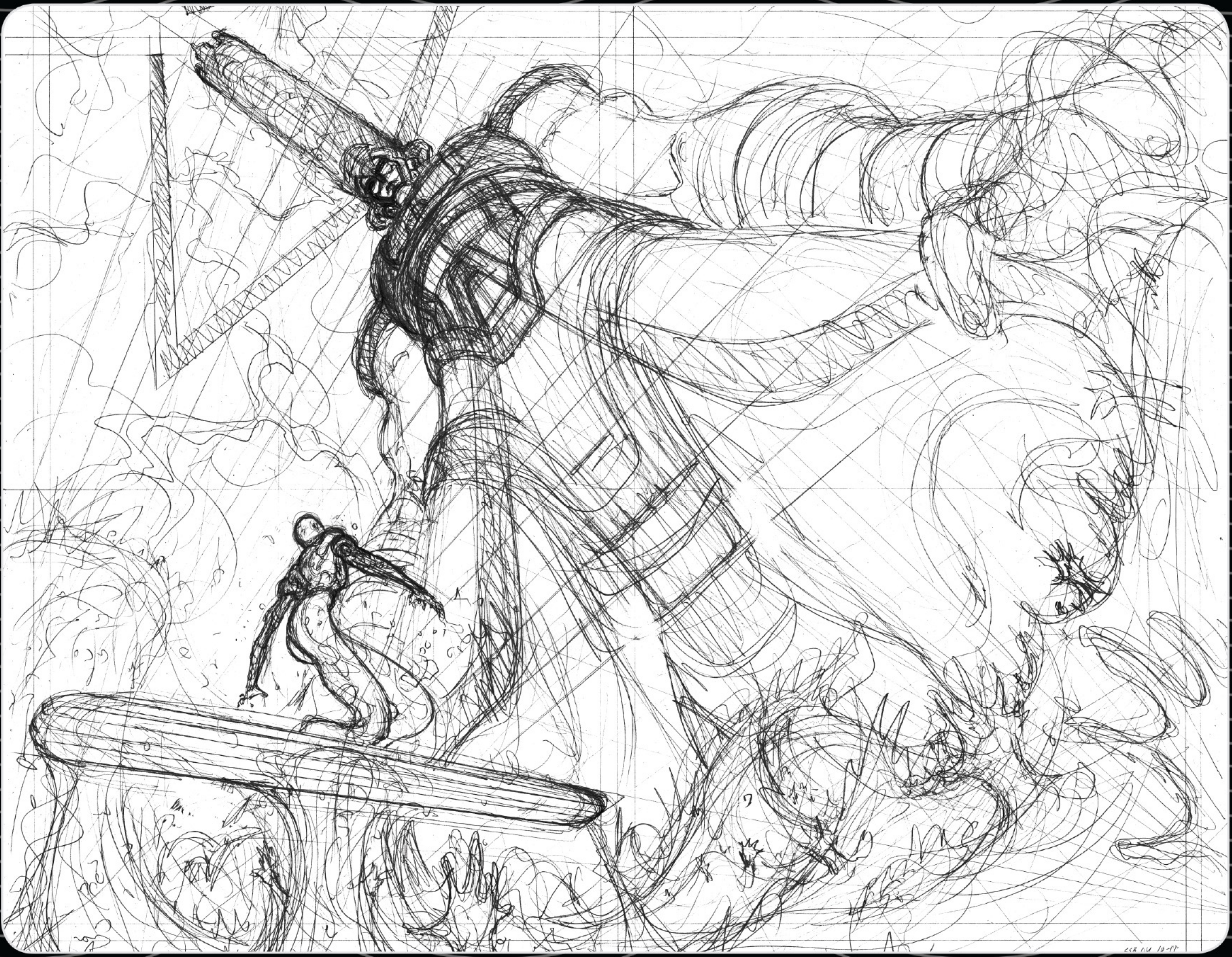
**TRADD MOORE**

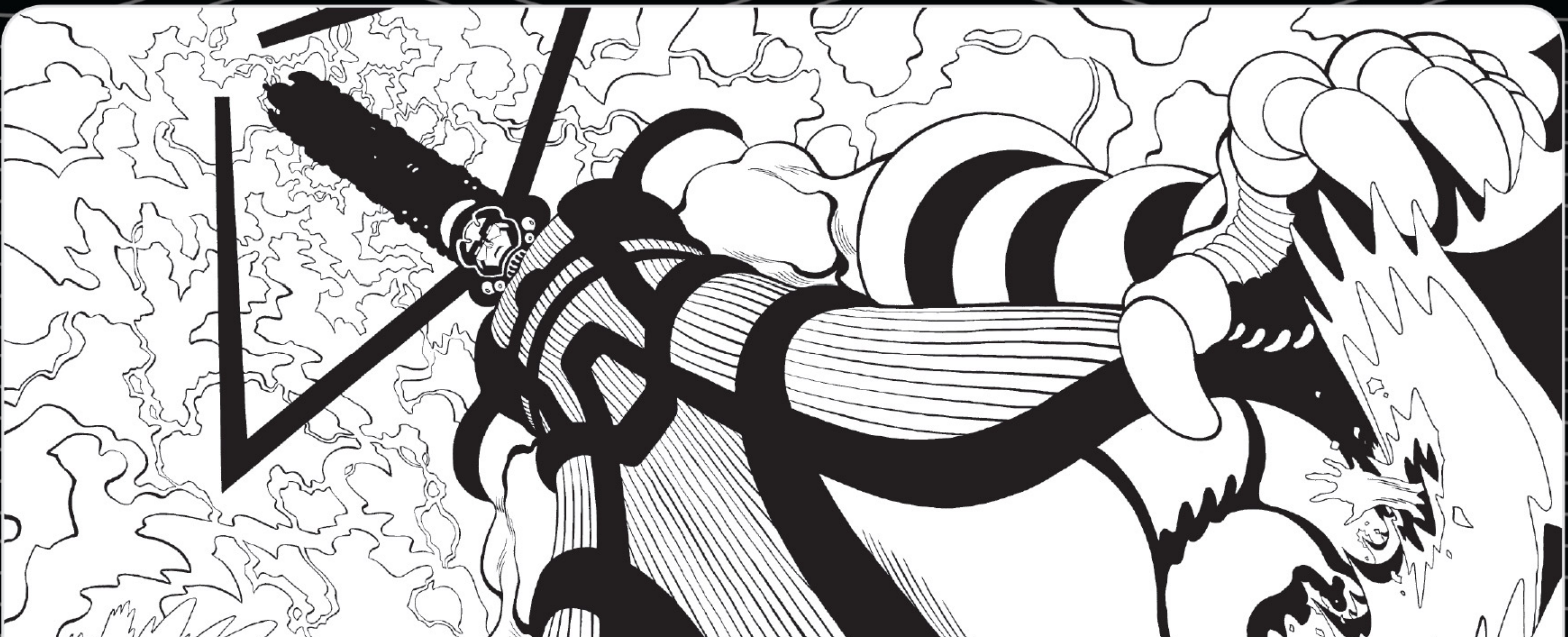




#3, PAGES 4-5 ROUGH & FINAL ART

**TRADD MOORE**



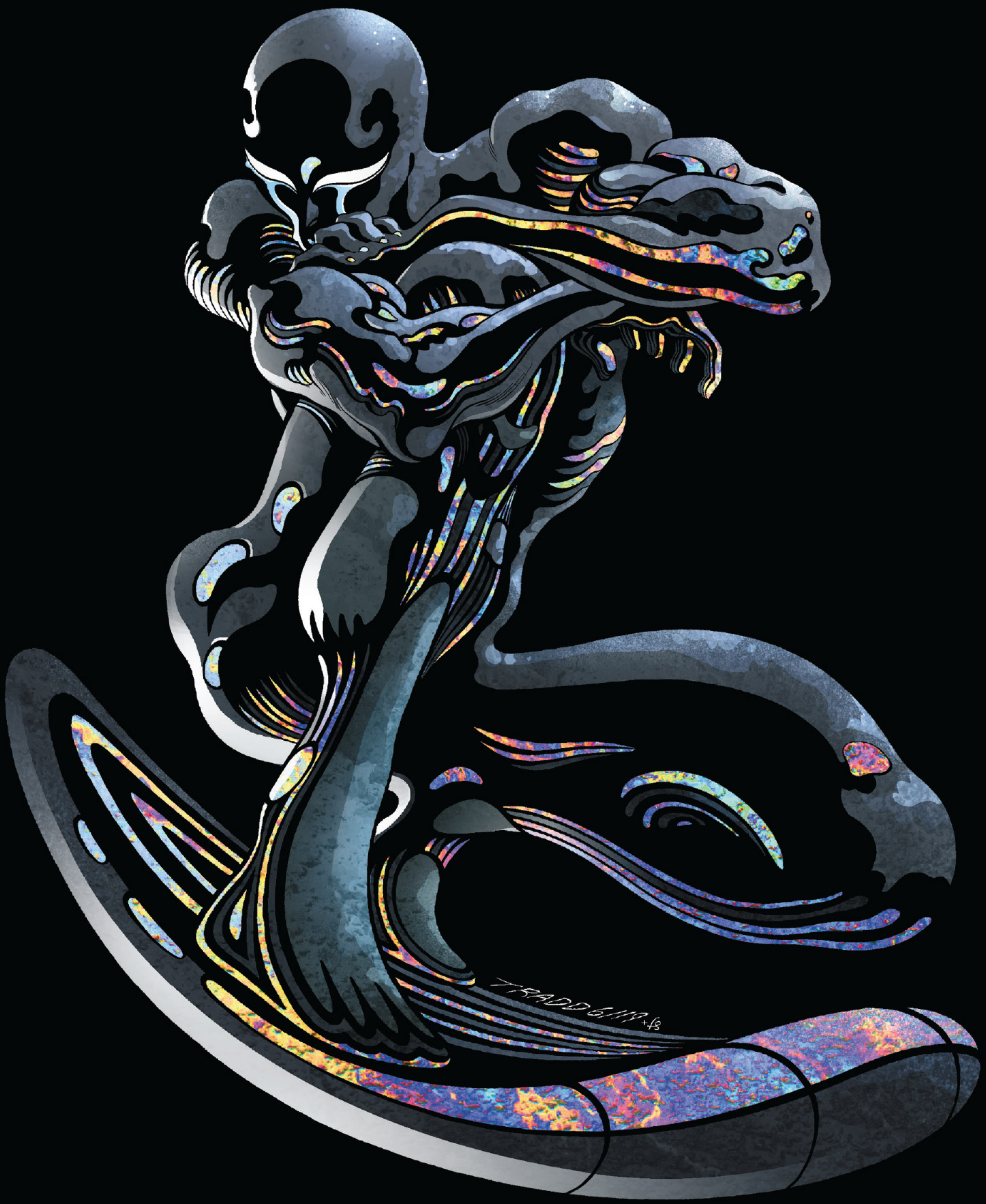


#4, PAGES 10-11 ROUGH & FINAL ART

**TRADD MOORE**

*"Silver Surfer: Black* is a gorgeously rendered comic with plenty to offer fans of the character and the creative team." — IGN

# IS THIS THE END



# OF NORRIN RADD?

In *Guardians of the Galaxy*, the cosmos' greatest defenders were thrown through a black hole — including the Silver Surfer! But his story doesn't end there! To beat back oblivion and avoid losing himself to the darkness, the Sentinel of the Spaceways must call on all his inner light to save his own soul! With his power cosmic fading and the all-consuming darkness descending, will help come in the form of an unexpected ally? When the Surfer discovers something with the potential power to turn the tide, is he prepared to pay the terrible price for awakening it? And how does the Surfer's predicament tie in to the sinister world of symbiotes? Donny Cates and Tradd Moore take the Surfer on a journey that will change him forever!

MARVEL T+

Collecting ***SILVER SURFER: BLACK #1-5*** — by
Donny Cates, Tradd Moore and Dave Stewart.